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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23 1990

De Klerk and ANC to meet on apartheid

Final obstacle falls before historic talks

From Nicholas Beeson, Johannesburg, Susan Elliott, Washington, Michael Binyon, Brussels, and Andrew McEwen, London

President de Klerk of South Africa yesterday removed the final obstacle to talks with the African National Congress when he welcomed a proposed ANC visit to discuss negotiations on ending apartheid.

He is expected to meet Mr Nelson Mandela and other leaders within weeks, but he has postponed a visit to Zaire for what would have been his first summit with a group of African leaders.

"Now is not the time to create further divisions," he said in a statement announcing he had agreed to President Mobutu's request that he postpone the visit. "Africa cannot afford more controversy within its own ranks."

But in a day of marked conciliatory moves in South Africa — the ANC also launched a peace initiative in

INSIDE

Tunnel vision

● "That money was exhausted, so unless we got money from the banks the project would have stopped — this week. In such circumstances, people are bound to get a little tetchy," Alastair Morton, the chairman of the Eurotunnel project, has seen its costs rise from an estimated £4 billion to more than £7 billion, and been consistently criticized for a management style commonly described as "abrasive". Brian James talks to him on page 10

● The arrival of the new Lotus Elan — and the competition it will face in the sports car market — is highlighted in our Motoring section: pages 30 and 31

● There were four winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win is on page 27

Natal, and its political wing appeared to show a more flexible approach to international sanctions — the sanctions controversy raged in Europe.

Britain confirmed that it was to lift the ban on new investment and on the promotion of tourism in South Africa, immediately coming under fire from an American official and the Irish Foreign Minister, but the United

Democratic Front — the ANC's political power base — admitted it was not in its interests to damage the South African economy.

Its spokesman, Mr Patrick "Terror" Lekota, who has just returned from meetings in Washington, said: "When we are satisfied that the process (of negotiation) is in motion, we will concur with those calling for the lifting of sanctions. It is not in the UDF's interests to smash the South African economy."

Mr de Klerk's statement on the ANC was seen as an historic step in which he said: "This commitment to talks on ways and means of getting negotiations off the ground is a positive step. I sincerely believe that direct communication is the best way to attain this."

Mr de Klerk said he would address the "legal uncertainties" that excluded ANC leaders from returning to a country where they are still wanted criminals.

However, he rebuked the movement for its adherence to preconditions for talks. "This attitude is in stark contrast to the enthusiasm, if not impatience, on the part of all other leaders in South Africa to get negotiations going," he said.

Meanwhile, a five-man ANC delegation led by Mr Walter Sisulu began a tour of

Poison patrol on the Sussex coastline



Firemen in protective clothing searching the beach at Hove yesterday for canisters of lethal potassium cyanide, thought to have been washed ashore from a ship buffeted by recent heavy storms in the Channel. Details, page 2

End to the ambulance dispute may be close

Both sides in the ambulance dispute appeared last night to be edging towards a settlement that could end their six-month dispute.

After more than six hours of talks at the Department of Health a union official emerged to say she was "fairly optimistic" about the progress being made.

The talks took place amid strong speculation that the unions had accepted that there would be no guarantee that future pay settlements would be automatically linked to inflation.

Hundreds of militant ambulance workers have indicated they would consider the failure to negotiate a pay mechanism formula to be a sellout by the team of union negotiators led by Mr Roger Poole.

Mr Steve Manhire, a north-west London union convener, said that without agreement on a formula he and others



Mr Poole: On receiving end of "sellout" warning.

Hurd sees Nato in political role

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, last night spoke of the need for Nato to change with the times and explained how its role would become more political and less military in response to the changes in Eastern Europe.

In a key statement on the future of the alliance, which a Cabinet group headed by the Prime Minister and Mr Hurd has been reviewing, he told the Commons that security needs would change and that Nato had to distinguish rigorously between those roles which would remain important and others which would change in the face of events.

In what amounted to the first public confirmation of the review, disclosed by *The Times* last month, Mr Hurd listed as Nato's permanent characteristics its present membership, the presence of significant British and US forces stationed in Europe, a sensible mix of conventional

Guinness witness 'lied to save skin'

By Angela Mackay and Paul Wilkinson

The main prosecution witness in the Guinness trial was accused yesterday of lying to save his own skin.

Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, who has been granted immunity from prosecution in return for testifying against his former employer, Mr Ernest Saunders, and three others, denied the suggestion.

The fifth day of the trial saw Mr Roux clash repeatedly with Mr Saunders's counsel, Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, over his role in the affair.

On his third day in the witness box at Southwark Crown Court, Mr Roux admitted signing invoices authorizing about £24m of alleged illegal payments in relation to a share support scheme devised during Guinness's £2.7 billion bid for Distillers in 1986. He maintained that Mr Saunders authorized

Cover-up is denied by Reagan

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

In his most definitive public statements yet on the Iran-Contra affair, former President Reagan has testified on oath that he knew nothing of either the illegal diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan rebels in 1985 and 1986 or of subsequent attempts to cover up the scandal.

Mr Reagan spent eight hours giving evidence in a closed Los Angeles court late last week. Judge Harold Greene ordered the release of the transcript yesterday after Bush Administration officials had checked it for any national security disclosures.

Mr Reagan had been subpoenaed to give evidence by Mr John Poindexter, his former National Security Adviser, whose trial on five criminal charges arising from the affair begins on March 5.

City relief over 'swaptions' ruling

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Court of Appeal confirmed yesterday that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham operated outside its legal powers in entering into a series of "swap" transactions with City banks, which now find themselves unable to enforce contracts worth nearly £100 million.

However, it said that "swap" contracts could be legal, provided council treasurers were simply hedging their risks for the ratepayers' sake, and not "trading".

The judgment is a great relief to the banks, which had stood to lose an estimated £500 million if the "swaptions" had been declared unlawful.

It leaves open, however, the question of whether the banks will recover the millions of pounds outstanding on swap dealings entered into by some 80 other local authorities.

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Parishioners wake up to the cow shed poll tax

By Ray Clancy

The 241 villagers in the Essex parish of Langford and Ulling were shocked to learn yesterday that, under the community charge they must pay an extra £39.83 each for the privilege of turning a decrepit cow shed into a village hall.

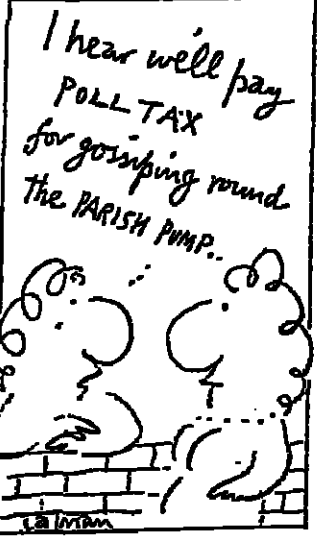
Their plight highlighted the fact that the new tax allows parish councils to impose their own levy on the locals. An embarrassed spokesman said: "It seems Langford and Ulling are charging the highest parish poll tax in the country but most of it will go towards a badly needed village hall."

The parish next door, Great Thorham, (pop: 2,152) is making no poll tax charge. Both parishes come under Maldon District Council which has set the tax at £339. Its 30 parishes decide how much to add on to this figure.

Great Thorham villagers will pay the straight £339 but locals in Langford and Ulling must pay £378.83 from which the parish will receive £9,600. Over £7,000 of that is needed to finance a £70,000 loan taken out in 1986 to buy the cow shed and turn it into a village hall.

"We are a victim of buying this land long before poll tax was envisaged. We used to get 83 per cent of our income from rates, mostly from Langford water works, but now the villagers are having to pay their way," Mr Peter Hedge, parish council chairman, said.

Yesterday some villagers concluded it would be worth paying the levy. "We are



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Labour in move to replace poll tax with 'fairer rates'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party is moving towards a decision to replace the community charge with a modified version of the rating system.

Mr Bryan Gould, the party's environment spokesman, who is in charge of drawing up an alternative to the poll tax, is being urged by his Shadow Cabinet colleagues to drop any proposals which smack of a local income tax.

Instead, a majority of the Shadow Cabinet is understood to believe that Labour should opt for a modern, fairer system based on a property tax levied according to the value of properties, backed up by a generous and far more extensive system of rebates. That would mean that those on the lowest incomes pay nothing.

The system being urged on Mr Gould by key Shadow Cabinet members is similar to that announced by the Labour Party in Scotland, dubbed by the Tories as a "roof tax".

The belief among Labour leaders is that the Government is incurring so much unpopularity over the community charge that Labour would be better served by offering improvements to the present system. They may avoid calling it "the rates" but admit that they will be proposing a more efficient version of the old system.

They feel that despite Conservative attacks, people will regard the Labour proposal of capital values, rather than rateable values, as fairer and more sensible.

There is frustration that the party has already handed

ammunition to the Conservatives by lengthy discussion of alternatives which led to it coming forward with a plan for a property tax combined with a local income tax.

That was dropped in the face of charges from the Tories that Labour was planning a "two-tax" alternative.

Since then Mr Gould and Mr David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, have been working on new proposals, the broad outline of which was disclosed by Mr Gould at the party's local government conference earlier this month.

One option floated by Mr Gould for implementing Labour's aim to introduce a property tax based on people's ability to pay was for a sophisticated system in which payment would be linked to income tax bands and collected from information already given to the Inland Revenue.

Several members of the Shadow Cabinet have told *The Times* this week that they would oppose such a system because of its similarities to a local income tax and they believe it would restore to the Tories their "two-tax" ammunition.

There is far more enthusiasm for a local government tax backed by a comprehensive rebate scheme.

A senior shadow minister said: "The Tories are getting so much flak for replacing the rates with the poll tax. We should be offering 'fair rates' as our alternative."

Labour's Scottish scheme

envisages a system in which houses would be taxed on the basis of their capital values as opposed to notional rental values under the rating system.

Capital values would be worked out using a system of sample valuations, involving houses being seen as representative of the property profile of an area.

Labour claims, however, that bills would not go up every time a property's value increased. It would only change significantly if the value of a house rose or fell compared to others.

It also promises to examine a scheme which would disregard the increase in the value of a house resulting from home improvements.

Senior Labour figures believe these points have been conveniently ignored by ministers in their attacks on the new scheme. The key to a new system favoured by many in the Shadow Cabinet is a new rebate system, which would include for the first time the introduction of 100 per cent assistance.

Signs of a new Labour shift on the issue came as the Prime Minister yesterday rejected growing calls by Conservative MPs to remove education from local authority expenditure.

Senior Tories have suggested the move as a way of easing the impact of the community charge.

Mrs Thatcher said it would be "totally wrong" to take education out of local expenditure and run it centrally.

Minister names Britain's dirtiest street



Bury New Road yesterday, a non-market day, as Mr Trippier launched his crusade. Residents say the street is a disgrace.

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

Bury New Road in the cities of Salford and Manchester is the dirtiest street in Britain, Mr David Trippier, the minister in charge of the Government's anti-litter crusade, declared yesterday.

It was covered with the uncollected refuse of weekend street markets, Mr Trippier alleged, every Monday morning when he drove in to Manchester to take the train to London from his Rossendale constituency in Lancashire.

He was launching a code of practice to accompany the new litter laws being brought in by the Government's Green Bill. Last night there was some confusion as to which authority — Salford or Manchester — was responsible for the littered section of the road, which runs from one to the other.

Salford City Council said: "We used to have an illegal street market on our section of the road on Sundays but we used our powers to stop it. We think it has now started up again on the Manchester section." No-one from Manchester City Council was available for comment.

"The road is a disgrace on Sundays and Monday mornings. Stall holders from the street market leave rubbish everywhere," Mr Michael Smith, a Bury New Road shopkeeper, said last night.

Mr Trippier handed out other briefings for councils which he claimed were not living up to their responsibilities of litter — as well as several plaudits.

"A considerable number of London boroughs are bad," he said, "Lambeth I personally find appalling."

Westminster, however, had "got it right" with its litter warden scheme and £10 fixed penalty, and Canterbury, in Kent, was also good.

Search for cyanide bottles begins

By Nick Nuttall Technology Correspondent

Police and firemen wearing special protective clothing and breathing apparatus yesterday began clearing the East Sussex coast of canisters containing the lethal chemical potassium cyanide.

Up to 16 containers have so far been washed ashore in the past two days along a 15-mile stretch of coastline between Hove and Newhaven.

They are thought to have come from a ship in the Channel, buffeted by recent heavy storms.

Experts at East Sussex County Council have confirmed that up to six of the

canisters contain the cyanide. Mr Martin Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the county authority, said some of the bottles were labelled with the chemical symbol for potassium cyanide, "KCN", as well as its United Nations identification code, "1680".

Late yesterday, the canisters were traced to a Dorset chemicals company, BDH Ltd of Poole. Mr John Vass, the firm's company secretary, confirmed that the labels appeared to be theirs.

After examining records, he said the company believed the canisters had formed part of a

shipment to Saudi Arabia that left England in late January from Sheerness, Kent. It is due to arrive in Saudi Arabia on March 2.

The shippers of the consignment were United Arab Shipping of Kuwait, which has more than 30 vessels.

Another lead is a link with a Qatar-registered ship that ran into trouble north of the Bay of Biscay. The vessel, which has not been named, hit severe weather in the new year and was forced into the French port of Cherbourg for maintenance from January 5 to 11.

The BDH company's total

potassium cyanide shipment had been 16 500-gramme bottles for use in laboratory testing, Mr Vass said.

Six other canisters, several clustered on the foreshore at Brighton, have also been washed ashore but these are not thought to contain the cyanide.

The fire brigade urged anyone finding any more canisters to report them to the police immediately.

The cyanide canisters, white plastic bottles with blue plastic lids, measure between six and nine inches long.

Parliament, page 9

NEWS ROUNDUP

Three battered to death in home

A husband, wife and their 16-year old son were yesterday found battered to death in their home on the outskirts of Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire (Stewart Tendler writes). Last night officers were attempting to persuade a 30-year-old man with a noose round his neck not to jump from a tree near the scene of the murder and kill himself. A police negotiator, a doctor, a social worker and a psychiatrist were at the scene talking to the man, said to be local. Police said he was not thought to be armed.

The alarm was raised when Buckinghamshire fire brigade was called to Cherry Tree Woods, part of a council estate, by children who saw a man up a tree with a noose round his neck. Police went to a house in the estate and found the bodies of Mr Anthony Rawlings and his wife, Barbara. Searching the garden, they found the body of the couple's son, Paul, in a shed.

There had been no forced entry into the house. Police later began searching for a murder weapon.

Search for bombers

Police hunting the IRA unit that bombed an Army van in Leicester on Tuesday said yesterday that they wanted to trace two men seen near the spot where the vehicle was parked (Craig Seton writes). They also appealed to hoteliers and the owners of guest and lodging houses to help discover if the terrorists stayed in the area before the attack.

Det Chief Supt Graham Carr, head of Leicestershire CID, said the men had been seen 30 minutes before the van left a car park near the Joint Armed Forces Careers Information Office. Three people were hurt in the blast.

Drink driver jailed

A drink driver who killed a young couple when he hit their car at 70mph was jailed for five years yesterday and banned from driving for 10 years. John Adams, aged 36, had drunk 10 pints of lager, Preston Crown Court was told. Adams, of Warrington, Cheshire, admitted causing death by reckless driving, and an excess alcohol offence.

Gas prices to rise

Gas prices for Britain's 17 million domestic customers are to rise by 7.5 per cent and standing charges by 70p to £9.40 a quarter from March 1 (David Young writes). The increases will add about 60p a week to the average bill. British Gas said the cause was the higher cost of producing and supplying gas from the North Sea. *Temper, page 22*

New IRA libel trial

A libel action against *The Sunday Times* by two brothers over an article about an IRA plan to bomb Britain will be heard at the High Court in Dublin on March 20. The initial action by Mr Patrick Murphy, of Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, and his brother, Thomas, of Dundalk, Co Louth, was aborted when the jury was discharged after legal submissions.

Families ask council to buy back homes

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Many of the million council tenants who bought their homes under the "right-to-buy" legislation are asking councils to buy back their properties because they cannot afford the repayments, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday.

Sheffield City Council is considering changing its policy of refusing to buy back the properties it sold at heavily discounted rates, in the wake of hundreds of requests from former tenants.

But it insists that if it does it will accept properties back only at the original purchase price, not at today's values.

If the scheme goes ahead, families will be able to continue to live in their homes,

and will return to paying rent. "Some people are suffering a great deal of stress and hardship, and the advantage of selling back is that they can stay in the house and will not be at the bottom of a waiting list," the council said.

Sheffield has sold about 14,000 of its 94,000 council homes.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents the main councils, said that many former tenants were finding themselves out of their depth.

"They are also seeing that councils provide a better repair service. This is happening throughout the country, irrespective of the political control of the councils."

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Surgeon admits failing to check if kidney donors were paid



Mr Bewick: Was assured no donors received money.

By John Young

A leading transplant surgeon accepted yesterday that he had failed personally to establish whether payment had been made to four Turkish kidney donors before the operations took place in 1988.

Mr Michael Bewick, one of three doctors charged with serious professional misconduct, was giving evidence on the 23rd day of a hearing by the General Medical Council professional conduct committee. The others are Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street neurologist, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist.

All three deny the charges of misconduct. However Mr Bewick admitted yesterday that he had not personally established that financial or other improper inducements had not been made to the donors, whether or not the patient

and recipient were related; the circumstances in which the kidney was being provided; that the patient understood the risks involved and the possible complications; and that he had failed to procure a freely given valid consent in writing.

To a further charge of taking part or acquiescing in the sale of human organs, Mr Bewick gave an emphatic denial. Asked by his counsel Mr Roger Bell, QC, whether he had knowingly taken part in the alleged sale, he replied: "No. No way. Anyone doing that is committing suicide."

Mr Bewick described a "confrontation" with Dr Crockett at the Post House Hotel, near Heathrow, early in 1989, after reports of kidneys being offered for sale appeared in newspapers. "It was the only time I had any doubt about Dr Crockett's intentions," he

said. "Was Dr Crockett using me as a surgeon because he knew that I would trust him? It was possibly unfair to suspect him, but I did."

"I asked him specifically 'Did you pay any of these donors?' He said 'No' and I believed him. I have never doubted him since."

Mr Bewick was questioned about a kidney which he transplanted from a Turkish donor, Mr Ferhat Usta, into an Israeli patient, a Mr B, on July 16 1988. Mr B was extremely ill and had reached the stage where life was not worth living on a dialysis machine.

"Some days before July 16 I was informed that a distant relative had arrived from Turkey willing to give a kidney to Mr B," Mr Bewick said. At that time he had not considered the likely relationship between a Muslim and a Jew.

One factor to consider was whether it was permissible to use a kidney from a living donor for someone who was as ill as Mr B. However, Mr B was desperate to get off dialysis even if the process killed him.

"Dr Crockett and I felt on balance that the donor was genuine and wished to give a kidney and that although the risks were greater than with a normal living donor we should be able to do it, given great care, good management and a slice of luck."

He saw Mr B the afternoon before the operation at the Wellington Humana Hospital, in St John's Wood, north-west London, and made sure that he fully understood the risks.

Mr Bewick was asked if anything jarred when he first saw Mr Usta. He replied that Mr Usta had a darker skin and was of a quite different physique from Mr B. "Did it strike you that there was

anything fishy about Mr Usta donating a kidney to Mr B?" "Not really. I assumed that this was a totally genuine, non-paid, altruistic, albeit distant, donor. I can't remember the time sequence in which I thought isn't it strange a Muslim giving to a Jew."

"It seemed to me that if a Muslim was giving to a Jew, he had to have some sort of altruistic relationship because of the antipathy between Muslims and Jews. The question of money never crossed my mind."

Mr Bewick told the hearing that he had first met Dr Crockett in 1984. The "jungle telegraph" had told him that he was a good physician and he had worked regularly with him since then.

Dr Crockett regularly assumed responsibility for consultation with both donor and recipient before live transplant operations and for

the patients' after care. Part of the process was to establish the relationship between donor and patient before they came into the hospital.

In the case of another donor, Mr Ahmet Koch, who has told the hearing that his kidney was removed without his prior knowledge or consent, Mr Bewick said the recipient was a Dr K A S who was described as coming from Libya. Although Mr Koch had claimed that he thought he was in a hotel and was undergoing tests in order to get a job, Mr Bewick said he had the distinct impression that he knew Mr B.

Earlier, Mr Bewick had said he was hopeless at "sussing out" if a donor was being paid. "I am much too trusting. I tend to take people at face value and if they say black is white I believe them."

The hearing continues today.

Customs to demand seizure of gang members' assets

Eight guilty of £18m plot to smuggle marijuana

By David Sapsted

Britain's longest cannabis trial came to an end at the Central Criminal Court yesterday when eight men were convicted of a conspiracy to smuggle into the country £18 million of the drug hidden in timber from Africa.

The unanimous verdicts came on the 107th day of the trial after the jury had been out for three days considering a mass of evidence against the gang, including hours of videos filmed by undercover Customs and Excise investigators.

Sentencing was adjourned until March 27 when the court will hear an application from Customs, under the 1986 Drugs Trafficking Offences Act, for the confiscation of vast amounts of property belonging to the gang.

The court had heard that, for five years, the profits from one of Britain's most extensive cannabis-smuggling operations rolled in. For Paul

Newman, the ring leader, the cash bought a mansion in suburban and a champagne lifestyle. It also enabled him to indulge in his passion for motor racing, sponsoring some of the country's best young drivers.

The seeds of the gang's downfall were sown in May 1987 when a manager of a warehouse in Wimbledon, south London, where consignments of hardwood from West Africa were being stored, found forklift trucks were having difficulty moving the overly-heavy bundles of timber.

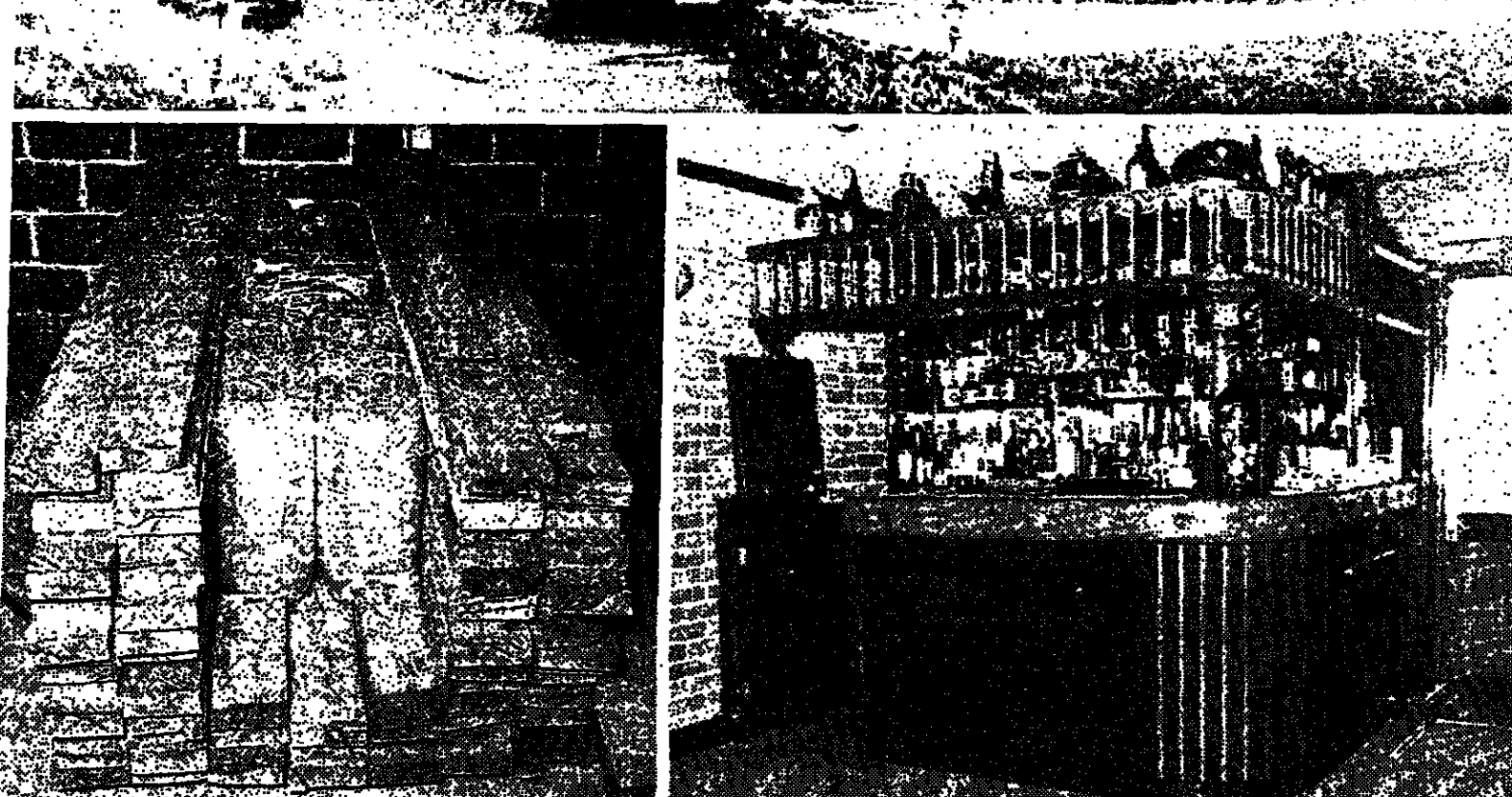
He ordered one batch broken open and found marijuana inside. Customs investigators were called in and discovered that 865 kilos of herbal cannabis, with a street value of £1.3 million, were hidden in nine, coffin-like containers in the centre of the bundles.

The find triggered an undercover operation codenamed Doorman which Customs and Excise and police officers describe as "the most significant investigation ever held in this country". Tracing various front companies importing the timber, they were led to a £1 million, 35-room mansion in Eltham owned by Newman, a man whom investigators could never trace as having a regular job.

Undercover surveillance pieced together the legitimate side of his life: a father of three with a passion for motor racing. He ploughed thousands of pounds into the sport, sponsoring a racing team which hired Ross Cheever, brother of the Formula One driver Eddie.

The British driver John Herbert, hailed as "the new Nigel Mansell", was partly sponsored by Newman although he told the trial that at no time did he realize there was any drugs connection.

Newman's daughter Emily, aged 20, was the European junior go-kart champion and is now one of the country's top women drivers, being sponsored by Collett in Formula Three races. Emily and David



The house that Crack bought with cocaine cash (top), the wood used to hide the drugs in transit (above left) and the drinks bar made from that wood.

Evans, one of the defendants in the trial and a successful Formula Ford 2000 driver, appeared on BBC's *Blue Peter* to talk about motor sport.

Away from the track, Newman - whose favourite car was his 150mph Ford Cosworth Sierra - dropped hints to neighbours about making money from property deals. In fact, he was making it from an operation which brought at least £18 million worth of marijuana into Britain.

His two senior lieutenants were Roy Crack and Peter Lambert. During the course of the trial they argued that they believed they were smuggling gold, not marijuana. Customs investigators, however, said they, too, prospered on drugs profits.

Crack - who began life as a debt collector for Newman - was able to move from a small, ex-council house in 1986 into a detached home

with swimming pool, sauna and jacuzzi, set in an acre of land at Warrington.

He spent more than a quarter of a million pounds refurbishing the house, ironically using wood that had come from cargo used to hide the cannabis.

Lambert moved from a tiny, two-bedroom flat to a detached house next door to Crack. What the wealthy trio did not know was that they were under constant surveillance by Customs officers as they flew back and forth between Britain and West Africa to set up the deals.

Harry Apiah, a convicted drugs smuggler and one-time member of the gang, informed on his former colleagues and became a key witness for the Crown. He told the court that an Ivory Coast MP was involved in the operation.

Another member of the gang who gave evidence for

the Crown, Robert Westbury, is now living in police cells in fear of his life amid rumours that a £100,000 "contract" has been put out on him.

During the course of Operation Doorman, Customs seized four and half tonnes of cannabis with a street value of £6.5 million. Between 1983 and January 1988, when the first arrests were made, they believe that at least 14 shipments were brought in.

The trial heard that a solicitor was used to launder the millions of pounds of profits. The gang set up bogus companies to import the wood from Africa and one, Clavingdon Ltd, was run by Evans.

Steven Scott was used by the gang as a warehouseman and, like Newman, drove a Cosworth Sierra, owned a power boat and spent long holidays in Spain. Two of the

other bogus companies, Oak-seal Ltd and Mulwood Ltd, were run by Bateson.

The eight men convicted of conspiring to smuggle cannabis between January 1983 and February 1988 were Michael Bateson, aged 33, decorator, of Grove Park, south-east London; Roy Crack, aged 52, club owner, and his son-in-law, Peter Lambert, aged 29, property consultant, who lived next door to each other in Warrington, Surrey; David Evans, aged 27, engineer, of Merstham, Surrey; Mark Fairman, aged 30, motor engineer, of Bromley, Kent; Steven Scott, aged 30, carpet fitter, of Barking, Essex; John Upton, aged 47, car restorer, of Downham, Bromley; and Jeffrey Yates, aged 40, painter and decorator, of Hounslow, west London.

Martin Smale, aged 40, a panel beater from Greenwich,

south-east London, was acquitted by the jury.

Paul Newman, aged 43, of Eltham, south London - the gang leader - and Robert Westbury, aged 42, a night-club manager who gave evidence for the prosecution, admitted the conspiracy at the beginning of the case.

Crack, Lambert, Evans, Smale, Upton, Scott, Bateson, Fairman and Yates had all denied conspiracy to import cannabis. Crack and Lambert also denied helping drug traffickers with the disposal of their proceeds.

Some gang members have already been sentenced. Peter Cromack was convicted in 1985 of importing one and a half tons worth more than £2 million and was imprisoned for eight years. James Kavanagh, who was arrested in South Africa, has been sentenced to prison there for 13 years for his part in the plot.

Widow 'unable to fill in cheques'

The widow of a 1920s Cabinet minister, who allegedly had her fortune pillaged by relatives, became incapable of managing her financial affairs, a court was told yesterday.

In the dock at Birmingham Crown Court are Michael de Stempel, Sophia Wilberforce and Marcus Wilberforce. They deny conspiracy to steal from Lady Illingworth.

Yesterday Miss Elizabeth Greig-Smith, a secretary, told the jury how she was taken on by Lady Illingworth in 1981 to sort out paperwork at her Kensington flat.

"I threw hundreds of receipts and bills away and filed stocks and share certificates," Miss Greig-Smith said.

Lady Illingworth's eyesight was so poor that she was unable to fill in cheques.

Over the years, the ex-society hostess "became vague and confused and lost some of her elegance. Between 1982 and 1983 I was managing her financial affairs. She wasn't capable of doing so herself."

Miss Greig-Smith described how she found a missing handbag belonging to Lady Illingworth, containing £160 and a valuable brooch, under Miss Sophia Wilberforce's bed.

The home of Lady Illingworth, said to have died a pauper, was filled with beautiful clothes and expensive jewellery, she said.

The case continues today.

PORTFOLIO

£500 prize to pay for 'little treat'

There were four winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Fathoms competition who receive £500 each.

Mr Tony Williams, aged 65, of Lledrod, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, said it was the first time he had won anything in his life.

"It was quite a surprise. I have just bought a new caravan so I will use the prize money to buy some little luxury to put in it," he said.

The other winners were Mr Peter Philpott, of Hartley, Kent, Mr Robert Waters, of Rhiwina, South Glamorgan, and Dr J Wilson-Croome, of Bourne-

Mersey oil spill

Shell accused of trying to save pipeline during leak

By Ronald Faxx

Shell UK was accused yesterday of causing an oil "gusher" as it tried to save its pipeline during a spill that polluted 20km of the Mersey estuary last August.

At Liverpool Crown Court, the company admitted causing the pollution but denied it had been negligent or had failed to maintain the pipeline buried in the estuary shore.

In the first prosecution by the National Rivers Authority, Mr William Rankin, for the authority, accused the oil company of allowing 50 tonnes, 10,000 gallons, of heavy Venezuelan crude to escape into the estuary after the pipeline had burst.

It caused a slick 16km long and killed 300 birds, putting another 2,000 at risk, he said.

After the initial leak, through a six-inch split in the corroded pipeline at Bromborough, Mr Rankin said that Shell employees pumped light oil and then water through the pipeline causing the gusher, which released further oil into the river. It would appear the flushing was done, he said, to remove the oil from the

pipeline to preserve the line at the expense of the environmental consequences.

It was feared that the oil in cooling would block the line, he said.

The burst happened on August 19. At 3pm it was clear to Shell staff that the volume being received at the Trammere oil terminal was less than was being pumped in at the Stanlow refinery 12 miles away.

Mr Rankin said Shell did not inform the National Rivers Authority until 17.30.

He said the fracture had been caused by severe external corrosion of the 12in insulated pipe. And he alleged Shell had failed to inspect and maintain the pipeline.

Mr Martin Thomas, QC, for Shell, said the company fully accepted responsibility and expressed deepest regret for the incident, but the leakage had happened despite strenuous precautions and without human error.

"The decisions which have been criticized were professional decisions taken on the spot and on the best information then available and with

the intention of minimizing damage to the environment."

He said the line was coated in concrete and protected against corrosion by a cathodic system. It was inspected the previous March when nothing was found. Investigation after the spill showed that at the point of the burst, the steel had become exposed to sea water at high tide.

Mr Edward Jenkins, deputy manufacturing manager at the Stanlow refinery said he decided to pump water along the pipeline because the break had occurred at a low point and a large quantity of oil remained in the system which could still leak out when the tide came in.

Vacuum tankers were standing by to drain the liquid escaping onto the foreshore. The operation was underway for 20 minutes before the gusher happened.

The judge asked whether this was an accepted consequence of pumping? "No, had we expected that to happen we may have taken another decision," Mr Jenkins said.

The case continues today.

Athlete 'a brazen adulteress', wife says

Miss Tessa Sanderson, the Olympic and Commonwealth javelin champion, was yesterday described as a brazen "adulteress" in the High Court by the wife of her lover, Mr Derrick Evans, the bodybuilder and fitness instructor.

On the fourth day of the athlete's libel action against the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* over articles last March saying she had stolen Mr Evans from his wife, Mrs Jewel Evans told the court: "I want to know if she looked over her shoulder to see if our marriage was finished or if her skin was so on fire she wanted it to be over and so believed it."

Asked if Miss Sanderson had removed all hope of her

marriage succeeding, Mrs Evans said: "I considered she had and she knew she had. She saw what she wanted and took it. She didn't think of the consequences."

"Her skin was on fire for a man and she took him."

Mr George Carman, QC, for *Mirror Group Newspapers*, the publishers, told her Miss Sanderson had denied breaking up the marriage or stealing her husband, aged 37, who now lives with Miss Sanderson at Brondesbury Park, north-west London.

Mrs Evans replied: "That Tessa Sanderson has no jurisdiction to comment on my marriage. She is an adulteress, she is brazenly living with my

husband and, until a judge grants a divorce, my marriage is still there."

After apologizing to the court for what she was about to say, Mrs Evans said: "My husband abhors homosexuals and she is so butch, she looks like a man. I just thought she was butch and he wouldn't be interested in someone looking like that."

"I thought she was arrogant to think he would want her for anything else other than to promote his business."

Mrs Evans continued: "Success is imperative to my husband, he has said to me, 'There is nothing I would not do in relation to business.' With regard to the gym he saw

Tessa Sanderson as the woman who could give him all he wanted."

Mrs Evans had first accused her husband of having an affair with Miss Sanderson in November 1988, after a report from a family friend. She had felt bitter on hearing they were lovers and had rung him up and asked for a divorce. "He said he wanted everything," she said. When she had objected, he had slammed the phone down.

Mrs Evans said her husband had forged her signature and re-mortgaged the house.

She added: "There were so many missiles coming at me. Mr Evans would arrive home driving Miss Sanderson's car

and wearing her Olympic T-shirts. "I heard she was going to Germany for Christmas, but I thought, oh sure, it's Jamaica with my husband."

She had been motivated by "many factors" to sell her story. "I felt scorned. I had to get my self-esteem back. I had to stand up, that's why I did it."

"This lady goes to schools. How many children's fathers will she step in and take just because she fancies them?"

She said her husband had had many affairs.

Mirror Group Newspapers and the journalists Sandra White and Steven Warr deny libel.

The hearing continues today.

Radiation damage 'could last generations'

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Damage caused to the genes of Sellafield workers by radiation could be passed on for many generations, increasing the risks of inherited conditions as well as childhood leukaemia, an expert on genetics said yesterday.

The only way to prevent hereditary problems spreading into the general population would be to have a nuclear industry workforce composed mostly of women beyond child-bearing years, Dr John Searling, former head of the

department of biological sciences at the City of London Polytechnic, said.

The director of health and safety at the Cumbrian nuclear plant, Dr Roger Berry, said on Wednesday that men working there who fear their children may develop leukaemia might be best advised not to have a family. British Nuclear Fuels, operators of the plant, said it was not the company's policy to offer such advice, but for each worker to reach his own decision.

Dr Searling, who is now retired, said he gave warning of the risks of genetic damage to offspring when he gave evidence at a public inquiry in

1977 into radiation hazards at Sellafield, then known as Windscale.

"My warnings were ignored by the inquiry, probably because they were too alarming," he said at his home near Keswick, Cumbria, yesterday.

The report last week by Professor Martin Gardner of Southampton University showing an increased risk of leukaemia among children whose fathers worked at Sellafield was "extremely sensible", Dr Searling said. "I am just appalled that some people in the industry are saying they never considered the possibility. I put it forward 12 years ago." He endorsed

Professor Gardner's suggestion that radiation may have caused a mutation in the sperm of men working there.

An editorial in today's issue of *The Lancet* says there would be "enormous implications" for research into radiation and leukaemia if Professor Gardner's theory of radiation damage to human sperm was proved correct. But it points out that data from the Japanese families who survived the atomic bombings are in conflict with the findings. "The children of fathers exposed to a single high dose in 1945 do not seem to have been at risk."

THE GUINNESS TRIAL

Finance chief denies lying to save his own skin

Consultant 'hated' cut and thrust of takeover

By Paul Wilkinson and Angela Mackay

The main prosecution witness in the Guinness Affair trial was yesterday accused of "lying to save his own skin".

Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, has been granted immunity from prosecution in return for giving evidence against the four defendants.

Under cross-examination during day five of the hearing at Southwark Crown Court, Mr Roux denied repeated defence suggestions that he had made his allegations against Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, to divert attention from his own role in an alleged illegal share support operation during the company's takeover of Distillers in 1986.

Mr Saunders and three others are accused of illegally boosting his company's share price to win the takeover battle with the Argyll supermarket chain.

Mr Saunders, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, Gerald Ronson, chairman of the Heron International group, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, counsel for Mr Saunders, opened his cross-examination by asking Mr Roux if it was his understanding the prosecution had decided not to bring charges against him.

Mr Roux replied that he had believed that was the case since July 1987.

Asked if he had sought an assurance that he would not be prosecuted, Mr Roux replied that his solicitor had asked on what basis the prosecution were seeking statements.

Mr Ferguson: "If the prosecution had not granted you immunity would you ever have given these statements?"

Mr Roux: "I cannot answer."

Mr Roux admitted that he was concerned when the Department of Trade and Industry began investigating the takeover.

He agreed that his signature appeared on all the paperwork relating to payments of alleged illegal success fees to people involved in the share support operation. None bore Mr Saunders's signature or initials, nor even a note saying

Mr Saunders had approved them.

Mr Roux admitted that he knew the reasons for the payments were set out on the paperwork in most cases false and misleading, and Mr Ferguson suggested that he had become worried for his own position when the DTI investigators moved in. "It occurred to you that unless you could offload the blame on someone else you yourself would be to blame."

Mr Roux: "No, those invoices were signed with Mr Saunders' approval."

Mr Ferguson: "I suggest to you that the intention of the concept of Saunders' approval was a means you seized upon

to divert attention and blame away from yourself."

Mr Roux: "No, Mr Saunders was the chief executive, I was an agent of the company."

Mr Ferguson: "By blaming Saunders, that was your means of escaping. It was the simplest thing in the world to say Mr Saunders approved the invoices."

Mr Roux: "No, it was impossible for me to sign the invoices without Mr Saunders' approval."

Mr Ferguson suggested that Mr Roux had put into effect a two-phased plan to divert attention from himself.

"Phase one was to try to shed the blame on to Mr Saunders by alleging that he had approved the payments. Phase two was to make sure that while you were blaming Saunders no proceedings would be brought against you."

Mr Roux: "No, obviously not. You must know that I could not go ahead and sign those documents off my own bat when I had no executive power in the company."

Mr Ferguson: "I suggest that you are lying when you tell this court that Mr Saunders approved any documents."

Mr Roux: "I refute that categorically."

Mr Ferguson: "I suggest that you have lied about these matters to the lawyers, to the DTI inspectors, to the police and to this court."

Mr Roux: "No."

Mr Ferguson: "I suggest you have lied to save your skin."

Mr Roux: "No."

Mr Ferguson went on to question Mr Roux about his work with Bain and Co, the management consultants to Guinness before the 1986 takeover.

He agreed he had made a personal investment of \$30,000 in a Bain subsidiary which made investments from a \$36 million fund, and thought it would yield between seven and eight times the original outlay.

But he denied it was a perk of his job, saying it was a personal investment, just as anyone else might choose to put money in a building society.

He denied that his salary with Bain had been \$600,000. "At the absolute peak in 1986 it was \$650,000," Mr Roux said, considerably more than Mr Saunders's salary, which had been around \$350,000 that year.

Mr Roux agreed that Guinness was Bain's second largest client and by far its biggest European customer. Thirty full-time staff had been employed on the Guinness account and fees for advice had ranged between £1 million and £1.5 million a month.

When Bain took on the consultancy in 1981, it found Guinness had no machinery for handling management information. Mr Ferguson said the company was managed by a board of Anglo-Irish executives and enthusiastic amateurs who were sinking rapidly. Mr Roux agreed that it had a very inefficient data bank and that Bain had

suggested it needed a controller — the post to which Mr Saunders appointed Mr Roux.

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which Mr Roux replied: "With respect, that is rubbish." Mr Saunders was the chief executive and the chairman and was running the business.

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"But between you and Mr Saunders, you were the one who concentrated on finances," Mr Ferguson asked.

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Mr Ferguson asked Mr Roux whether there were any financial aspects of the company that Mr Saunders did not



Mr Olivier Roux, the key prosecution witness, by the Thames during a break in proceedings at Southwark Crown Court.

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"It was run by Saunders and several others — we are not running the Sock Shop here."

The Guinness financial team comprised about four people and Price Waterhouse. Mr Roux denied that he was a financial whizz-kid, even though he was made a non-executive director of Guinness in 1984 at the age of 33.

Mr Ferguson asked Mr Roux whether there were any financial aspects of the company that Mr Saunders did not

after the Bell takeover, he had taken firm control of the financial side of the business and told Mr Saunders that he need not be concerned with that area.

"That is most certainly not the case, if I had done so he would have sacked me." He had held regular meetings to brief Mr Saunders on financial matters.

Mr Roux also denied that he had approached Guinness's brokers to suggest they should become involved during Argyll's initial bid for Distillers in 1986. He said he had spoken to them, but only on Mr Saunders' instructions.

Mr Ferguson said: "Are you suggesting you are some form of messenger boy for Mr Saunders?"

Mr Roux: "No, I am saying I could do nothing without the chief executive's approval."

Mr Ferguson put it to Mr Roux that he was Guinness's lead manager in the bid for Distillers and that he was the person who took most of the decisions in the implementation of the bid. Mr Roux said that most of the decisions made after the decision to bid were taken by the full board.

He kept in close contact with stockbrokers monitoring Guinness's share price and the volume of trade. There were regular meetings attended by Mr Saunders to discuss these matters.

When asked if he was keen for Guinness to win the bid, Mr Roux replied: "It was a scary prospect to lose." It would have cost the company a lot in money and prestige, but it would not have affected him personally.

Mr Roux agreed with Mr Ferguson that at a meeting on February 19, 1986, he and Mr Saunders were not prepared to carry on with the bid once it had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He said that Mr Seelig and Mr Walsh from Morgan Grenfell, Guinness's merchant banking advisers, said that "the window of decision was there and then". The merchant bankers were confident they could find the finance for a fresh offer.

Mr Roux said the meeting went on for several hours. It was attended not only by Mr Seelig and Mr Walsh, but also by Mr Christopher Reeves from Morgan Grenfell, Mr Anthony Saltz from the legal firm Freshfields, Mr Thomas Ward and others at various times. Mr Saunders reluctantly agreed to the final decision to make a fresh bid.

The trial continues today.

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Mr

Animals in abattoirs can die in pain 'from ineffective stunning'

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Many animals in British abattoirs may die painful deaths because they are not fully stunned before slaughter, according to a survey carried out for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The survey, to be published shortly, found that 6.6 per cent of animals "showed evidence of being less than fully effectively stunned". In young bulls the incidence of poor stunning rose to 53 per cent.

Mr Alastair Mews, the RSPCA's assistant chief veterinary officer, said: "The findings vindicate our long-standing concern about the inadequacy of stunning methods and the extra distress they cause to animals."

The RSPCA commissioned the report from the government-funded Institute of Food Research at Langford, near Bristol, which examined the use of the captive bolt pistol method of stunning on 1,944 animals in 27 abattoirs.

With that technique, the pistol is held against the forehead of the animal and a blank cartridge is detonated to force a bolt out of the gun and into its brain. Correctly used,

the pistol causes instant loss of consciousness.

Dr Clyde Daly, who conducted the survey, said: "The two main problems we found were inaccurately aimed shots and inadequately powered pistols. In a significant number of cases, we found that animals' nervous systems still responded to the stimuli of light flashes after stunning, indicating they were not totally insensible."

The survey found that in 8 per cent of the animals examined, the pistol had been placed more than 5cm from the ideal position. Fifteen per cent of abattoirs used cartridges of lower strength than that recommended by the manufacturers for large cattle.

Immediate steps must be taken, the report says, to improve the accuracy of shooting either by better design of the stunning pens or, ideally, by use of head restraint.

Mr Anthony Gordon, chairman of the Association of British Meat Processors, which represents most of Britain's big abattoir owners, said: "We are surprised and worried by this report. We know

of no previous criticism by inspecting vets. Our members will now be investigating the matter urgently."

The findings of the Institute of Food Research came at an embarrassing moment for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which yesterday held a reception at the House of Commons to mark the tenth anniversary of its own advisory body, the Farm Animal Welfare Council.

A report by the council in 1984 put forward 117 recommendations - some of which covered the points now raised by the Institute of Food Research - for improving the training of slaughtermen and the treatment of animals.

"I do not think any of the 117 recommendations has yet been implemented, apart from some very minor modifications that did not require legislation," Professor Colin Spedding, the chairman of the council, said yesterday.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council urged the Government to fund research into the feasibility of gassing poultry before slaughter as a more humane alternative to shackling and electrical stunning.

Thatcher and Kinnock in harmony



Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, and, right, Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, among MPs, peers and Westminster staff at St Margaret's church, the parish church of Parliament, singing at a recording of *Songs of Praise*, which will be shown on BBC1 on Sunday at 6.40.

British threat to sue Bonn over partial beef ban

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Britain has still not settled its dispute with West Germany over the safety of British beef and might take legal action against the Bonn Government, it has been disclosed.

Bonn will not lift its ban on the import of British beef on the bone until scientists have proved there is no health threat to humans from the "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), according to Mr Richard Peters, agriculture councillor at the West German Embassy in London.

West Germany originally declared it would not accept beef from Britain unless it was accompanied by certificates stipulating that it came from herds free of BSE. Britain refused to provide such certificates arguing that the measures it had taken at home ensured that all beef was safe.

These measures include the compulsory slaughter and destruction of cattle suspected of having BSE and the removal from all cattle carcasses of offal thought to harbour the BSE agent - brain, spinal cord, thymus, spleen, tonsils and intestines.

Bonn then modified its

position and said it would accept imports of British beef off the bone. This means that about 25 per cent of the total beef trade with West Germany before the dispute began remains blocked, a loss to Britain of about £3.5 million a year.

"We have made clear we cannot go further at the moment as long as we have no proof whether this BSE virus will affect humans or not. We say if there is a possibility that the BSE virus spreads to humans then it is via the 'bridge' of the bone and the lymph nodes," Mr Peters said.

Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said: "As the West Germans well know, Brussels has stated clearly that there is no scientific evidence to support their case, and they have already moved a long way from their starting position."

"We are pursuing discussions with Bonn and the European Commission. We think this is a more sensible approach than going to court straight away, which might not produce a verdict for two years. However, we will take legal action if the West Germans refuse to lift their restrictions."

A separate ban on the export of all live cattle more than six months old from Britain to other EC countries is due to come into effect on March 1 because of BSE.

So far, the BSE scare appears to have had no measurable impact on British beef and veal exports, which last year broke all records, increasing by 16 per cent in volume (from 120,300 tonnes in 1988 to 139,600 tonnes) and by 22 per cent in value (from £251.2 million in 1988 to £307.2 million).



Mr Gummer: Will take legal action if discussions fail.

Inquest on four children

A mother strangled her four children while they slept, taking a rest between each killing, an Essex inquest was told yesterday. Police Inspector Stephen Reynolds said he believed Mrs Oi Tai Ngai, aged 32, of Basildon, Essex, was mentally ill.

The children, aged between four months and five years, were found by their father last Friday night when he returned home from work in a Chinese restaurant.

A post-mortem examination found that the children died from asphyxia. Mr Reynolds said: "When interviewed, Mrs Ngai admitted the offences." Her husband did not attend the inquest, which was opened and adjourned.

Miner dies

One miner was killed and another injured when they were hit by a runaway tram yesterday at the Tower Colliery, Hirwaun, Mid Glamorgan.

Listeria check

An analysis in West Yorkshire of more than 3,500 food samples found that 11.7 per cent contained listeria species. Some 20 per cent of samples of meat and meat products were affected.

Fatal crash

Mr Graham Smith, a motor-cycle enthusiast, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, was killed when his vehicle hit another being ridden by his wife, Jane, at Nantgaredig, West Wales.

Hoax charge

Mr John Pryse-Jones, aged 59, of Hunstanton, Norfolk, was yesterday committed for trial charged with sending a hoax letter bomb to the Queen at Sandringham in January.

PC is 'safe'

PC Raymond Powala, aged 40, who disappeared while on duty in Amblecote, West Midlands, on Monday, has telephoned his wife to say he is safe.

180mph rider

Christopher Page, aged 20, was yesterday sentenced to 28 days' youth custody for speeding at 180mph on his motorcycle on the M6 in Staffordshire. Page, of Alsager, Cheshire, was also banned from driving for two years.

Cross stolen

A 3ft high granite cross, weighing a quarter of a ton, has been stolen from Lantivity, near Lostwithiel, Cornwall. It is the latest in a spate of thefts of wayside monuments from the area.

Newt tunnel

A tunnel is to be built under the A11 Wymondham to Betsworth by-pass in Norfolk so a rare species of newt can reach its breeding ground.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Moscow pleads for law and order as mass protest nears

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party leadership yesterday issued a strongly worded appeal to the people of the Soviet Union to protect law and order and rebuff anyone trying to instigate conflict and instability.

Although it made no mention of the nationwide demonstrations planned for Sunday, the appeal clearly reflected official concern that the authorities might not be able to keep the situation under control.

The appeal was published two days after the Supreme Soviet had approved a document calling on all local authorities to do their utmost to preserve order and act against unsanctioned protests. It also came only hours after the disclosure that two public prosecutors, who have gained the status of national heroes for their stand against official corruption, had been expelled from the Communist Party — a decision calculated to raise already inflamed passions.

Sunday's demonstrations were originally planned to support democracy and *perestroika* as the election campaign for republic and local government approaches its climax. Such is popular discontent against the local and national government and the party apparatus, however, that officials fear the sort of unstoppable popular protest that engulfed East Europe.

The first mass demonstration, which took place in Moscow on February 4, began as a march in support of *perestroika* and faster reform, but ended up attacking the party and government apparatus. It attracted a crowd of about 300,000 and had to be allowed into the vast Manezh Square adjoining the Kremlin walls. Even more people are expected to turn out on Sunday.

Late on Wednesday, the party and government authorities in Moscow agreed that Sunday's demonstration could go ahead, but they banned it from Manezh Square in the heart of the

capital — a decision which was yesterday attacked by members of the radical Inter-regional Group of parliamentarians to which the organizers belong. They fear that the marchers will try to get into Manezh Square, with or without official permission.

Rumours have circulated in Moscow throughout the week suggesting that the target of Sunday's demonstration could be the Kremlin itself, the notorious Lubyanka prison, or the Communist Party Central Committee building, and the chief of Moscow police yesterday called on Muscovites to show vigilance against extremists.

On February 4 the Kremlin and Red Square were bar

Kirgiz decree

Fruze, Kirgizia — Authorities in this Soviet Central Asian republic banned the spreading of rumours and slander yesterday amid growing fears of disorder in advance of local elections on Sunday (Reuters reports). Mr Mikhail Vasilchenko, of the Kirgiz Communist Party's ruling Politburo, said that a decree had been issued following several stormy unsanctioned demonstrations in the republic's capital.

ricaded, with lines of buses and trucks, and militia three-deep, but the crowds made no attempt to force their way through.

Three weeks later, the situation could be quite different. The two sites offered by the Moscow authorities for the demonstration, the Luzhiki sports stadium and Smolenskiy Square, are neither as big nor as central as Manezh Square.

The expulsion from the Communist Party of the two prosecutors, Mr Telman Gdylan and Mr Nikolai Ivanov, adds another explosive element to the atmosphere in the capital. The two men became well known

in the criminal investigation and subsequent conviction of Brezhnev's son-in-law, Mr Yuri Churbanov, for corruption just over a year ago.

Mr Churbanov was implicated in a colossal corruption scandal in Soviet Central Asia which allowed officials in the cotton-growing regions of Uzbekistan to record inflated production figures in return for gifts of money, jewellery and antiques. Hundreds of Uzbek officials were investigated and dozens imprisoned.

As long as the prosecutors were usefully employed disgracing a scion of the Brezhnev clan in Mr Gorbachev's first years as leader, they were given every assistance by Moscow. Their mistake, which they freely admit, was to believe that their remit extended beyond the Brezhnev family and Uzbekistan into contemporary corruption among existing party and government leaders.

One accusation, in particular, is thought to be responsible for their current misfortunes. They accused Mr Yegor Ligachov of taking bribes to turn a blind eye to corruption elsewhere. Mr Ligachov was absolved by a special commission of the party Central Committee, and the party's wrath was directed against those who had initiated the charges — both were dismissed from their jobs and now from the party.

Mr Gdylan maintains that his expulsion from the party is illegal and refuses to acknowledge it, but he sees it as a predictable prelude to being formally charged. A move to deprive both Mr Gdylan and Mr Ivanov of the legal immunity they enjoy as Congress deputies is already in train. They can then be arrested.

Some members of reformist groups in Moscow see an ulterior motive in the timing of the Gdylan-Ivanov expulsions, regarding them as an attempt to foment unrest and even violence during Sunday's demonstration. Others see it as an unfortunate coincidence.

Genscher gloom at undiplomatic cut in ties



Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, appearing resignedly gloom with his tie about to be cut at a carnival celebration in his ministry yesterday.

Britain stages retreat on field exercises

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Britain yesterday bowed to pressure from West German environmentalists, farmers and citizens' action groups by more than halving the size of its only two major field exercises planned in West Germany this year.

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, quickly thanked Britain for reducing the training programmes and so helping the population and the environment.

The first of the two planned exercises, "Keystone", was originally to involve 18,000 men in the Eifel region from September 1 to 25. Now only 9,000 will be involved.

The second, "Quarter Final" exercise will be cut back even more significantly. Instead of 29,000 men being deployed round most of Hannover between October 8 and 26, there will now be just

13,000 to the north and the east, and no more than 8,000 will exercise at any one time.

General Sir Peter Inge, Commander in Chief Rhine Army, admitted there were "penalties" to reducing the size of the exercises. At the same time, manoeuvres involving forces up to small brigade strength were less boring for the soldiers and good for morale, while the officers were able to train on computer battlefield simulators. "You have to balance the pressures," he said.

Sir Peter would not be drawn on the British Army's long-term future in West Germany — that was a matter for negotiation at arms talks which had yet to begin, he said. Reductions in the exercises had been agreed "autonomously" from events in the East, he added.

Sir Christopher Mallaby,

the British ambassador in Bonn, believes that German membership of Nato will survive reunification. "We do still need Nato and need to remain in numbers," he said.

As far as the reduction in the size of the exercises was concerned, this was in line with German concerns about the social and environmental impact, he said.

Meanwhile, Admiral Theodor Hoffman, the East German Defence Minister, in response to the pressures of the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe, yesterday proposed a new combined German army.

The admiral, who took over the defence ministry in November, is not likely to survive in office after the elections on March 18. However, his ideas do not seem to contradict the thinking of the major East German political

parties, who want a united Germany to be neutral and who argue that the country should be at the heart of a new European security zone.

He said yesterday that he expects his ten-point plan for creating a new defence policy to be discussed both by the Warsaw Pact countries and by the West German government. He is suggesting a mobile unit of between 200,000 and 150,000 lightly-armed men — compared with the present 178,000 in the East German forces and 495,000 in the Bundeswehr.

For the immediate future he expected both armies to remain in their different alliances, with American troops on West German territory and Soviet troops on East German territory — "even if these are only symbolic".

● Nato presence: Mr Ronald Lehman, the director of

the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, yesterday reaffirmed that Nato would remain a strong alliance with a military presence in Europe even if the Warsaw Pact were to disappear.

"Clearly we have to recognize that even if the Soviet Union were to completely withdraw from the territory of the non-Soviet members of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Union will remain the dominant military power in Europe. That will require a strong Nato," he said. "As long as it (the Soviet Union) is there, you are going to have to have a strong alliance and a strong military presence."

He rejected suggestions that Nato might become obsolete. Even if the Warsaw Pact were to disappear, "that does not change the fundamental requirement for Nato".

British MPs to weigh up Kremlin record on rights

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

Eight British MPs and members of the European Parliament are to fly to Moscow today to assess whether the Soviet Union has improved its human rights performance sufficiently to justify the UK's attendance at an international rights conference to be held there in 1991.

The Government declared 13 months ago that it would be prepared to attend if Moscow met a number of conditions. The situation in the Soviet Union has since changed greatly, but Mrs Thatcher made it clear in a speech last Sunday that Britain had not dropped its conditions.

The MPs and MEPs, drawn from the main parties, will be accompanied by representatives of the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jewry, which recently organized a statement by 450

academics urging the Government to withhold its support from the conference. The statement was published in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* last month.

But Moscow has taken important steps both to meet the conditions and to end a dispute with Britain on other aspects of human rights. Mr Anatoli Adamishin, a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister dealing with human rights, has assured Britain that changes in legislation to guarantee all the main aspects of human rights will be passed soon.

Moscow has not yet met Britain's condition that there should be no remaining long-term "refuseniks" who have been denied permission to emigrate, but appears to be making progress towards it.

The MPs and MEPs are to hold meetings this weekend

with refuseniks, most of whom have been denied permission on the ground that they had had access to secrets.

The two countries have reached an agreement to remove an obstacle to better ties on human rights which arose last year. This was Moscow's refusal to grant a visa to the Rev Michael Bourdeaux, the general director of Keston College, Kent, who was to have taken part with other British experts in government-to-government talks last summer. Britain reacted by cancelling the talks.

The compromise agreed is that Mr Bourdeaux will be invited to the Soviet Union at Easter. Provided the Soviet authorities give him a visa, this will lead to exchanges between British and Soviet parliamentarians and others to discuss human rights.

Today Herr Hofmann is defensive when he talks about

Stasi commander slips from potentate to pariah

From A Correspondent, Bad Liebenwerda, East Germany

For 30 years, Herr Dieter Hofmann spied on his neighbours. He ordered them followed, bugged their telephones and sent many to prison.

Until three months ago, he was the most powerful — and the most feared and despised — man in Bad Liebenwerda, a town of 6,000, about 80 miles south of Berlin.

Now, no less loathed but no longer feared, the former district chief of the dreaded state security organization is out of a job. Like more than 100,000 former agents of the Stasi secret police, he has been sacked since the Stalinist regime of Herr Erich Honecker's was overthrown in October last year.

Top-ranking Stasi officers in East Berlin have been jailed and face criminal charges, their once all-powerful Ministry for Internal Security disbanded.

Today Herr Hofmann is defensive when he talks about

his years of service with the security force that terrorized East Germans for 40 years.

"You have to remember that, according to the laws then, these people were enemies of the state," he says, referring to those who dared criticize the former hardline communist leadership and those who took to the streets just months ago to win East Germany's peaceful pro-democracy revolution.

He makes no apologies. "Our orders were carried out in accordance with the law then and we conducted ourselves in strict adherence to the regulations."

Herr Reinhold Fürstewald has not forgotten what it meant to be on the receiving end of Herr Hofmann's law enforcement.

"This creature had absolute say over jobs, permits to travel and permission to emigrate. He gave the orders for surveillance, interrogations and arrests." One of the Stasi's most

important functions was to crush dissent, to ensure that the absolute power of the ruling party was neither challenged nor maligned.

Herr Fürstewald said he was detained and beaten up during the demonstrations last October that finally toppled

Buchenwald — Thousands died when the Nazi concentration camp here was used as a prison by the Soviet authorities from 1945 to 1950 (AFP reports). The camp's history has emerged in the wake of the communist regime's fall.

the old government. "Hofmann should be picking berries on a prison farm," he says.

His mood is shared by tens of thousands of East Germans who continue to take to the streets to denounce the communists and demand that those responsible for decades of oppression be brought to justice. Angry protesters have stormed Stasi headquarters in

East Germany's biggest cities in recent months. Bad Liebenwerda's anti-Stasi protests remained peaceful.

The town's demonstrators ridiculed it in rhythmically chanted slogans, and placed candles on the building's perimeter fence, as Herr Hofmann and his staff covered inside, stripped of their authority.

In the now eerily empty Stasi headquarters near the town centre, the sacked lieutenant-colonel is packing up what remains of his possessions. The files they compiled meticulously on residents were destroyed in November, he says, "burnt according to orders".

The electronic listening post in the basement has been dismantled. Its sophisticated West German eavesdropping technology, ripped from the walls, lies in heaps of coiled wire on the rubbish-strewn floor.

Herr Hofmann refuses to

talk about the future or go into detail about his former job. He says he has received death threats and that his car has been vandalized. As yet, he faces no charges.

His former deputy, Herr Bodo Gogolin, also a lieutenant-colonel until the peaceful revolution, is less reticent. "I am getting an assembly-line job," he says. He adds that he is glad to be done with the long, stress-filled hours of working for the Stasi, and to have a job with regular hours.

He would like to go west, but fears he would be arrested because of his past. "We are not criminals, you know. We did what we were taught to believe was right to protect the state. I know now it was wrong."

Herr Gogolin says he would eventually like to try working in a "capitalist" factory.

"Why not?" he says with a shrug. "We Germans have always tended towards extremes."

Old habits and new in the wake of Romania's revolution

Civil war fears bring tough clampdown

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

"Property of the State. Please keep moving," declared the freshly painted placards which appeared all over Victory Square yesterday, along with scores of extra police equipped with batons and "patriotic guards", busy workers in military uniform determined to prevent anyone from lingering for more than a few seconds.

The clampdown, at the scene of many recent unruly demonstrations in front of the headquarters of the interim Government, was introduced as Romania marked the end of the second month since the Communist dictatorship was toppled, a period which has seen the struggle for democracy degenerate into something approaching civil war between the ruling National Salvation Front and right-wingers who oppose what they say are its Stalinist methods.

"For the moment the Front has won. What can we do against this?" asked a bearded student, a veteran of the December barricades as he surveyed the buses of military and police reinforcements parked at the square yesterday and 16 armoured personnel-carriers that ringed the building.

The student's fear (he did not want his name mentioned) is matched by that of many intellectuals who maintain that the Front is a totalitarian Government determined to keep Romania on communist lines with none of the economic reforms introduced elsewhere in Eastern Europe. Although a general election is

scheduled for May 20, it is impossible to find an opposition politician who believes it will be run fairly. All point to the way in which the Front uses its control over state television to drive its propaganda home.

Many outsiders trace the change in the country and the collapse of the early euphoria to the decision of the Front, widely believed to have been assembled with the help of the KGB, to stand in the election which it intends also to supervise. For the two

Dissident returns

Bucharest — One of Romania's leading dissidents, Father Gheorghe Calciu-Dumitreasa, has returned from exile (A Correspondent writes). He spent more than 21 years in jail before leaving in 1985 and has a reputation as a brilliant theologian and a fierce critic of the Orthodox hierarchy. He said yesterday that the Church had collaborated with communism and should be purged.

The main opposition groups — the National Peasant Party and the National Liberal Party — both of which favour the rapid introduction of free enterprise, this has evoked bitter memories of the last open election in 1946 which was rigged by the Communists.

The legacy of Ceausescu's stifling 24 years is such that every Romanian is scarred by it. This has injected a degree of bitterness and hatred into politics that threatens to strangle the democratic experiment. Violence ex-

ploded last Sunday with the storming of the Front's headquarters by 500 anti-communists, some of whom were drunk.

Professor Silviu Brucan, aged 73, the eminence grise behind the Front's election campaign, maintains that the attack was "a turning-point" in the history of the revolution and that the right-wing National Peasant Party had orchestrated the mob violence but gone too far, jolting the nation into a realization of the need to impose order.

The National Peasant Party rejects the charges, countering them with allegations that one of its canvassers in Moldavia was tortured and killed. "See that telephone. It rings every day with death threats from groups calling themselves 'the Red Brigades' or simply 'Communists,'" said Mr Corneliu Coposu, the veteran president of the National Peasant Party, who spent 17 years in prison.

As the backlash against the two main anti-government protests has shown, the Front holds sway in the many state enterprises and is able to summon the workers to its aid.

As the independent daily *Romania Libera* pointed out, the state foots the bill for their demonstrations of support, such as that exercised last Sunday by miners, some of whom travelled 375 miles in special trains laid on by the Front.

The thousands of miners behaved with commendable discipline when they arrived hungry and cold in the capital, but left little doubt that they would be taking law and order into

their own hands if there was not a rapid clampdown against anti-government demonstrations.

Just as the workers have been prepared to turn out for the Front, few doubt that they will do the same at the ballot box, making the *ad hoc* mixture of old Communists, military men and a dwindling number of intellectuals odds-on favourite to win the poll.

So far the workers' enthusiasm has been undeterred by the failure of the Front to offer anything but temporary relief from the shortages of basic goods, especially meat.

Yesterday, however, there was an unseemly brawl on Bucharest's Magheru Avenue as a van carrying a few crates of scraggy chickens arrived to be met by a queue too long for everyone to be satisfied.

"This is just like it was under Ceausescu, it is no better," shouted one middle-aged woman.

In a country where for the first time in 40 years people can talk freely, (although most still fear that they cannot), where abortions are now legal, infertility is no longer punished, censorship has been abolished and energy has been redirected to private homes instead of being diverted to loss-making factories, her claim was — like most things in Romania — exaggerated.

But, as yesterday's *Romania Libera* showed, there are signs that after only nine weeks in which freedom slipped effortlessly into anarchy and politicians had to be defended by armoured vehicles, old habits are creeping back.

Bells and bands herald new era of social freedoms

From Tim Judah, Bucharest

Liberty has brought new sounds to Romania. Lunchtime strollers have been amazed by the sight of three Hare Krishna devotees chanting for the first time in this country.

Between 200 and 300 Bucharest residents watched in puzzlement as the three devotees gave their best rendition of "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Hare Rama, Hare Rama."

"What are they?" was the most common question, although a few onlookers reacted with hostility. "They are out of order," shouted one man. "How dare they defile a sacred place where people died for our revolution?" said another.

One man said that he thought they were capitalists and/or punks. But most onlookers commented: "If this is democracy... then it's OK." Most confused were the police, who were unsure how to react.

The three devotees of the Hindu sect were Bhakta Russell, aged 21, from Australia, Arjuna Das, aged 29, from West Germany, and Hashu Das, aged 28, a Romanian

who lives in West Germany. They said this was the first time that missionaries from their movement had been able to come to Romania and it meant that Albanians were now the only Europeans never to have seen them.

Arjuna Das said: "It was absolutely impossible to operate here before. Whereas in the Soviet Union many of our followers were persecuted and put in mental asylums, here that never happened because we were never able to get in in the first place."

Hashu Das said that he and the other two were an advance guard for more senior missionaries who would be coming later on this year. He was enthusiastic about the reception they had received, especially in the town of Craiova where they had been welcomed by the Mayor and interviewed on radio.

He said that he thought Romania would be fertile ground for their religion as "there's a great interest in yoga here — and people are also very rich spiritually. Years of oppression have kept their spirits rich — but hidden."

also had one of their first chances to see foreign rock bands. Three groups are here, courtesy of the British Council, for a tour entitled "British Rock for Romania".

The three bands — Skin Games, Crazyhead and Jesus Jones — were given an enthusiastic welcome at their first date in Timisoara where 3,500 people turned up to see them perform in a 2,000-seat theatre. Mr Andrei Partos, of the Romanian tour organization Metronome, mumbled darkly about "counterfeit tickets made by local patriots". The crush literally broke down the doors of the theatre.

By contrast, the first Bucharest concert was not sold out. Five thousand turned up at the indoor stadium, which could seat 7,000. By far the warmest reception was for Crazyhead, a traditional heavy metal band. Jesus Jones, an acid rock group, evoked a less enthusiastic reception with people saying they were "unfamiliar" with the music — but they also said that in time they were sure they would get to like all the latest Western trends to which they were, as yet, unexposed.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Defiant teenagers lead revolt against Serbs

From Richard Bassett, Djakovic

The six teenagers wore an expression of studied revolt. As they moved across a small stream between crumbling mud huts, they exchanged victory signs with some old women knitting.

The women smiled, packed up their knitting and withdrew. Five minutes later a group numbering about 50 were shouting "Freedom, Kosovo must have freedom".

On a bright sunny afternoon, the cries rang round empty streets. The population used to living outdoors on the streets took refuge inside. Barely had they done so when the air filled with tear gas.

The demonstrators fled, melting away into a maze of valleys which form the heart of every Kosovo town. One or two stragglers, who remained just too long to hurl a stone, were bundled off to the Djakovic police station.

There, eight senior officers in multi - mostly Albanians (none gave their names) - politely took notes. Allegations of police brutality were rebuffed. The police here, despite their poor turnout, shabby uniforms and generally sullen demeanour, were none the less "apolitical".

"You must realize, in a democracy the police cannot back any factions," said a

senior inspector, weary of the daily round of interrogations.

In Djakovic, most of the demonstrators are young. With many schools closed in protest at what the Albanians here see as a new wave of Serbian oppression, these children are easy gas fodder.

Encouraged by television scenes of mass protests in neighbouring Romania, they have become more confident.

"Very brave," remarked a veteran of SOE (Special Operations Executive) who was visiting a cafe he had last seen in 1944. "Usually the Albanians are quite windy."

The State Presidency has ordered the Army to crack down, but it is the police who represent authority on the streets.

The Army, trundling up and down country roads in rusted T55 tanks, depict the ever thinner flag of Yugoslavia's federal authorities. They seem unwilling to get involved.

This poses an awkward dilemma for the police in Kosovo. Most of the senior officers drafted over the last few weeks are Serbs. The junior policemen are predominantly Albanians and make no secret of their suspicions about them.

Yet at the same time, they are determined to show their

loyalty to the idea of a Yugoslav federation and carry out every order with almost Byzantine attention to details.

No one must think that the Albanians in Yugoslavia are not loyal to the state. Their quarrel is with Serbia.

In nearby Pec, the atmosphere yesterday was tense. Reports that a bomb had destroyed the local post office, however, were vigorously denied by local Albanians.

The receptionist at the hotel opposite the gutted building, insisted it was a gas explosion.

None the less, many Albanians in Pec insist that the Serbs are desperate to brand the Albanians as "terrorists" - the term counter-revolutionary having become passé in the communist world.

It is difficult to make this label stick since all 33 deaths in the recent wave of violence in the province have been ethnic Albanians, but it serves Serbian propaganda to blame Albanians for the explosions.

The Serbs in Kosovo say the Albanians are guilty of terrorism because they intimidate the Serbian minority. But in this tangled web only those outside can afford to remain impartial and see the faults of both sides.

For everyone else here there is no compromise.



Crackdown patrol: Police searching an ethnic Albanian in Uroserac in Kosovo province where a curfew is in force after riots.

Albanian minister downplays jailings

From A Correspondent Athens

Albania admitted for the first time yesterday that it was holding political prisoners convicted of trying to overthrow the last hardline communist regime in East Europe.

Mr Simon Stefani, the Interior Minister, said there were 3,850 prisoners "convicted of all kinds of crimes, ordinary and political ones", and "only four death penalties for political crimes" had been passed during the past decade. For ordinary crimes "which pose a great danger to the society, three or four persons a year are under sentence of death".

He dismissed allegations that 30,000 to 40,000 people were being held in Albanian jails in an interview in Zeri I Popullit, the government newspaper. An English version was released in Athens.

Mr Stefani said there were only 83 people convicted "for activity to overthrow the people's power through violence".

Of allegations that thousands of members of the Greek minority were in Albanian jails, he said there were only 35 Greek prisoners.

Kosovo dissidents claim persecution

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Seven Albanian dissident groups in Kosovo province have addressed an open letter to the Yugoslav State Presidency asserting that their predicament has been made worse by "brutal ill-treatment" of citizens, including children and old people, by the federal police force. Serbian police constitute the bulk of the force.

The dissident intellectuals, almost universally respected by the Albanian people in the region, listed complaints of the police raiding schools, homes, mosques and hospitals, threatening and humiliating people, and beating up peaceful citizens. They said that these actions were provoking mass protest, especially over murders not

investigated by an officially created commission.

Federal policy, ignoring the legitimate demands of ethnic Albanians for democracy and regarding the entire "Albanian nation" as enemies and separatists, excluded all democratic solutions, the intellectuals alleged.

Meanwhile, the ruling Slovene Communist Party, which recently seceded from the Yugoslav League of Communists, has joined Slovene opposition parties in voicing disapproval of the way the Army has been used to quell popular unrest in Kosovo - they fear it may become embroiled in a civil war - and threatened to demand that all Slovene conscripts serving in the region be withdrawn.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Protest at Borneo genocide charge

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) - Malaysia has protested to Britain over an allegation by the Prince of Wales that "collective genocide" has been waged against a nomadic people in Borneo. Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, said yesterday. Dr Mahathir told reporters that the allegation by the Prince, concerning the Penan tribe in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak, was "not true at all". The Prince had said that the 9,000-strong Penan were being "harassed and even imprisoned for defending their own tribal lands".

Dr Mahathir said that a protest Note had been sent to London to correct the Prince, who spoke of a "dreadful pattern of collective genocide" worldwide. Amar Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Sarawak Chief Minister, has said the Prince was "probably not well informed".

EC 'green' ignorance

Brussels - Few citizens in the European Community know what causes air pollution, acid rain and the greenhouse effect, according to a survey commissioned by Brussels (Michael Binyon writes). Only one in five people questioned in all 12 EC countries linked the greenhouse effect to burning oil and coal; most thought that acid rain was caused by chemicals in agriculture and industry; one in 10 thought nuclear power caused both. However, British knowledge was among the highest and 78 per cent of EC citizens surveyed saw the environment as an important issue.

Mafia drugs swoop

Rome - Italian police and the FBI have arrested 12 people in Palermo, Miami and New York suspected of running an international cocaine and heroin operation involving the Sicilian Mafia, the American Mafia and the Colombian drug cartels (Paul Bonapart writes). Among those arrested is an Englishman, Allen Knox, aged 44, accused of having transported 596kg of cocaine while captain of the ship Big John. Italian sources said cocaine was shipped from Colombia to the Sicilian Mafia, who distributed it in Europe in exchange for heroin for the US market.

Nuclear taboo broken

Islamabad (AFP) - President Mitterrand of France has broken a long-standing taboo by agreeing to relaunch nuclear co-operation with Pakistan after more than a decade of US and Indian pressure to steer clear. His announcement here on Wednesday that he would sanction the sale of a nuclear power plant to Pakistan has already received a negative reaction from the United States. The State Department said France had no assurances the plant would not be put to military use.

Bougainville talks

Sydney - The Papua New Guinea Government yesterday announced peace talks to be held with rebels on Bougainville Island within a week (Robert Cockburn writes). More than 100 people have died in the 18-month war over secession - 16 in military custody. In Port Moresby, Mr Rabbie Namaliu, the Prime Minister, said the Government would agree to a gradual withdrawal of its troops from the South Pacific island if negotiations between Mr Bernard Narakobi, the Justice Minister, and Mr Sam Kaouna, the rebels' military leader, progressed successfully.

Pilot's mystery tour

Oslo (Reuters) - The pilot of a Royal Navy helicopter taking part in exercises in Norway got lost in the dark when his instrument panel failed, the Defence Ministry said yesterday. Spotting a few lights, he landed and asked local people the way. But their navigation was apparently no better, and he had to land again for more directions.

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	ESCORT 1313 3 door	ESCORT 1313 5 door	ORION 1313 L	ORION 1313 LX
Cash Price* (including delivery)	£7775.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
0% (APR nil)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3887.48	£4289.48	£4159.96	£4410.00
12 Monthly Payments of	£323.96	£357.46	£346.67	£367.50
Charge for Credit	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Credit Price	£7775.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
3.9% (APR 7.5%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3887.50	£4289.50	£4160.00	£4410.00
24 Monthly Payments of	£174.61	£192.67	£186.85	£198.08
Charge for Credit	£303.14	£334.58	£324.40	£343.92
Total Credit Price	£8078.14	£8913.58	£8644.40	£9163.92
6.9% (APR 13.4%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 33%)	£2565.75	£2831.07	£2745.60	£2910.60
36 Monthly Payments of	£174.65	£192.72	£186.90	£198.13
Charge for Credit	£1078.15	£1188.99	£1154.00	£1223.28
Total Credit Price	£8853.15	£9768.99	£9474.00	£10043.28
7.9% (APR 15.1%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 20%)	£1555.00	£1715.80	£1654.00	£1764.00
48 Monthly Payments of	£170.53	£188.17	£182.49	£193.45
Charge for Credit	£1965.44	£2168.96	£2103.52	£2229.60
Total Credit Price	£9740.44	£10747.96	£10423.52	£11049.60

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The Escort and Orion.



Labour ultimatum on peace talks puts pressure on Shamir

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

As the row over the settling of new Soviet immigrants in the occupied West Bank gathered momentum yesterday, the Israeli Labour Party issued a final ultimatum to its increasingly strident coalition partner, the right-wing Likud party, to move towards a settlement with the Palestinians or face the collapse of the present Government.

A curfew was clamped in the occupied territories yesterday amid rioting in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, warned Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister and the Likud leader, that the time for "evolution" had run out.

Mr Peres declared bluntly: "I do not want Shamir to continue his evasions. He must say yes or no. We must show that Labour has character. If Shamir says he needs still more time, we will say thank you, but no."

He maintained there was a "clear majority" in the Knesset (Parliament) for Labour's peace policy, especially if Likud rebels led by Mr Yitzhak Modai, the Economics Minister, carry out their threat to form a separate faction as Liberals.

The peace issue has come to a head following a response by Egypt to a US formula for the first direct Israeli-Palestinian talks to be held in Cairo. As a starting point, the talks would discuss Mr Shamir's own plan for elections in the occupied territories to end the Palestinian uprising, or *intifada*, and usher in a period of Palestinian self-rule.

But a meeting of US, Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers to pave the way for

direct talks is being delayed by differences over who should be in the Palestinian delegation. Egypt is understood to have proposed the inclusion of Palestinians deported from the occupied territories, and of Arab residents of east Jerusalem. Both are likely to have links with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Labour accepts this, but Mr Shamir is facing a revolt from the Likud right wing over such an arrangement. On February 13, Mr Ariel Sharon, his chief critic and rival, resigned from the Cabinet to lead the fight against the peace plan.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, who until now

Jerusalem (AP) — Israel's Supreme Court will seek evidence from a witness in West Germany which could free John Demjanjuk, a convicted war criminal, his lawyer said yesterday. Demjanjuk, aged 69, was given a death sentence in 1988 for the killing of 850,000 Jews at Treblinka in the Second World War.

has urged Labour to give Mr Shamir more time, yesterday agreed with other Labour leaders that the explosive issue of Soviet immigration had to be defused. The only way to do this, Mr Rabin said, was to begin talks with a Palestinian delegation.

On Wednesday, Mr Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior PLO official, said the settlement of Soviet Jews at Ariel, near the Arab town of Nablus, the nerve centre of the *intifada*, was an "act of war" which would provoke retaliation by the Arabs.

Israeli officials said there were fewer than 150 new

Russian immigrants at Ariel. Less than 1 per cent of the thousands of new Soviet immigrants have gone to the occupied territories. Some 50 per cent have settled in Tel Aviv, 30 per cent in Haifa and 10 per cent in Jerusalem.

None the less, Mr Shamir's careless remark recently that a "big Israel" was needed to house Soviet Jews has caused an international outcry.

If Labour carries out its threat to withdraw from the coalition, its options are either to form a "peace platform" government with the religious parties, the third force in Israeli politics, or to force new elections. Labour hopes that, despite its dismal electoral record, it would be able to capitalize on the schisms within Likud following Mr Sharon's stormy departure from the Cabinet.

Several of Mr Sharon's followers have accused Mr Shamir of trying to "crush" the Likud right wing. Observers say much will depend on the attitude of Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, who has patched up his differences with Mr Shamir after Mr Sharon's resignation.

But he is identified with Mr Sharon and Mr Modai's right wing faction and is angry over Mr Shamir's failure to promote any right-wingers in the Cabinet reshuffle after Mr Sharon's resignation.

Israel, meanwhile, is to step up security at East European airports in response to Palestinian threats of "retaliation" for the settling of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Budapest and Bucharest are used as transit centres because of the lack of flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

Rock around the rhetoric woos young votes

Letter from Managua

With his mottled-grey silk shirt and blow-dried hair, Daniel could have come straight from one of those Latin soap operas as he greets his *gringos* guests at the Sencanjoche restaurant on a main road outside Managua. (First names are obligatory in Nicaragua: if you use the Ortega, you are either a foreigner or a critic.)

The music pounds out in the tropical night as, a few yards away, couples gyrate to the *lambada*, an erotic Brazilian dance. Wearing punk black and swathed in gold chains, Rosario, Nicaragua's English-educated First Lady, tries to mask her features as Daniel clasps yet another "friend" by the shoulders while aides capture the moment on Polaroid.

The Polaroid camera is one of many gimmicks in the arsenal of the slick Sandinista campaign to convert the former guerrilla into something resembling a rock star, but this time the souvenirs are going not to the usual voters, but to foreign correspondents at a party in their honour.

Cynical detachment may be *de rigueur* for the US press corps when dealing with other Latin American strongmen, but the rules are different in Nicaragua where, despite a decade of bloodshed and some heavy-handed Marxism, they never quite took the romance out of the revolution. You can still wear your 1960s credentials and feel on the "right" side, particularly under the influence of seductive surroundings, local rum and the time of violence felt in a country still at war. After all, posters of James Dean and Marilyn Monroe grace the walls of Daniel and Rosario's family sitting room.

Nicaragua must be one of the last places where young people happily call each other *compañero* (comrade), a practice still indulged in by some diehard supporters of the "Sandies" among the foreign press, and almost universally by the brigades of *intercomunistas*, the unreconstructed lefties whose choice of correct holiday destinations has shrunk somewhat of late. Always recognizable by their droopy garb and wan northern look, the "sandualistas" have flocked to Managua from places as far-flung as Illinois, Urbidge and Uppsala to demonstrate solidarity and lament materialism.

"At least the McDonald's



Viva Daniel! Young Nicaraguans show their approval of the President's new pop star image.

here is a ruin from older days," noted Sven, a mournful student from Sweden, as he passed the crumbling remains of the twin golden arches, an artefact from an earlier civilization and almost a parody of the gleaming new icon off Gorky Street. "Who wants a revolution when you celebrate the opening of a McDonald's or a stock market. It is just terrible what is happening in Europe," Sven laments.

Hang around Nicaragua a little and you soon realize that ideology is only part of the allure for the foreign cast. Much of the attraction stems from the country's small population of three million. Add the

Nicaraguans' love of gossip and intrigue and the place becomes intimate and accessible. The Sandinista *nomenklatura* is a tiny group and everyone knows everyone.

They will point out with relish, for example, that the pretty woman in the queue for American light bulbs at the Soviet-style hard currency supermarket is alleged to be the mistress of a senior official. You shake hands and shop on. (You need the foreign bulbs because of the law that ties Marxist electricity to dim wattage).

As a country of a few big families, there is little room

for mystery. The Ortega brothers, Daniel and Humberto, may wear the mantle of revolutionary heroes, but schoolmates in Managua still remember them going to American films on Sunday, filling up on hot dogs and popcorn, and striving for the Ivy League look affected by their richer friends.

Many families straddle the revolutionary divide, the most celebrated being the Chamorros. Nothing could demonstrate better the intimacy and pathos of the bloody strife of the past 10 years. Of the four children of Señora Violeta Chamorro, the opposition candidate in Sunday's

election, two are high-ranking Sandinistas and two are leading figures in the opposition, one a former Contra leader. Doña Violeta — she merits the honorific in deference to her age — finds herself under daily attack as a Yankee stooge from her son, Carlos Fernando, director of *Barriada*, the Sandinista party newspaper. Doña Violeta, whose murdered husband is now invoked as a martyr and hero by both sides, says she believes one day all this foolishness will be over.

She sees only misery in the record of the Ortega boys and their guerrilla comrades, who are now struggling, like old rockers trying to keep up with an adolescent art form. If that image was far-fetched a few months ago, it is not now. Daniel has come to resemble Mick Jagger as he struts across the stage in tight jeans to the rhythm of the salsa and the adulation of the multitude.

His frenetic wooing of the youth vote has started to grate on some older revolutionary nerves. "It's all jingles and slogans and he doesn't talk about the struggle any more," said one *compañero*. Daniel's "issue-free" campaign has much in common with the President Bush approach to elections, as one North American diplomat noted wryly. He has wrapped himself in the flag and turned the Contras into his Willie Horton, the black murderer invoked by Mr Bush in 1988 as a symbol of Democratic cravenness.

A sense of change now hangs over Managua. Ironically, only if Doña Violeta wins on Sunday, an event thought by diplomats to be unlikely, can the Sandinistas preserve their mystique. If Daniel triumphs, the revolutionary chapter will be closed, as the *comandantes* use their new respectability to end Nicaragua's isolation and heal its economic wounds. The Americans will probably reciprocate as the vision of communism has long lost its sting.

As Carlos Fuentes, the Mexican novelist, put it: "If the Soviet Union can give up the Brezhnev Doctrine for the Sinatra Doctrine, the United States can give up the James Monroe Doctrine for the Marilyn Monroe Doctrine. Let's all go to bed wearing the perfume we like best."

Charles Bremner

Airbus safety fears mount as pilots voice doubts

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Another senior official of the French airline pilots' union has expressed concern that the sophisticated Airbus A320 could be unsafe.

In certain circumstances, said M Jean-Yves Boissier, the aircraft's computerized technology could "trap" pilots into potentially disastrous errors.

He made his claim as French aviation authorities stepped up pressure on their Indian counterparts to release vital information about last week's crash of an A320 in Bangalore.

M Boissier said that the number of incidents involving A320s "seems to be higher than would normally be considered acceptable".

He regretted that, despite a formal request from his union, the French civil aviation board had refused to follow

India's example in grounding all A320s until the cause of the Bangalore crash, in which 90 people died, is established.

According to M Boissier, who flies Boeing 747s for Air France, the union is not opposed to operating A320s, but members are worried that Airbus Industrie, the Toulouse-based manufacturing consortium, has not paid enough attention to complaints from pilots who fly the aircraft regularly.

"All we want is to avoid possible traps," he told the newspaper *Libération*. It was hard to avoid the impression that Airbus Industrie had not faced up to the implications of two fatal accidents involving its best-selling model (three people died when an A320 belly-flopped into a forest in eastern France in June, 1988). Earlier this week, M Pierre

Gille, head of the Air France branch of the union, said that, in "aeronautical statistical terms", the rate of accidents which involved the A320 was worrying.

The confrontation between French and Indian officials investigating the Bangalore crash has been sharpened by a statement from M André Lewin, the French Ambassador in Delhi. M Lewin said that there was "a moral responsibility" to share all available data.

DELHI: Air India, the international carrier, yesterday announced that it will operate 37 extra internal flights, using jumbo jets and Airbus 300s (AP reports). This should ease the passenger rush which the grounding of A320s by Indian Airlines, the domestic carrier, has created.

China hits back at US on rights

From Catherine Sampson Peking

China yesterday attacked a damning State Department report on human rights abuses there last year, saying it was "based on rumours and lies".

Peking has lodged a "strong protest" with the US Government, a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said, and added that the charges were "groundless".

The US had no right to interfere in China's internal affairs, the statement continued. America had "flagrantly vilified the Chinese leaders by insisting on putting together guesses and rumours".

The statement said the United States should solve its own human rights problems before "meddling" in the affairs of other countries, such as Panama.

This is the strongest language used against the US since the visit of the National Security Adviser, Mr Brent Scowcroft, in December brought to a halt the downward spiral of Sino-US relations.

Although China's angry reaction to the report was predictable, Western diplomats believe that the Chinese cannot afford another serious deterioration in their relations with the United States, and can therefore do nothing to back up their protest.

The State Department report catalogued the Army's gunning down of unarmed demonstrators in Peking on June 4, subsequent mass arrests, secret executions, torture and detentions without trial.

Its conclusion was that the human rights climate in China had "deteriorated dramatically" in 1989.

Gift of a lifetime



Paul McCartney with his "Lifetime Achievement" award, one of the top honours the music business can bestow, at the Grammy awards ceremony in Los Angeles. Rock, page 17.

US cutbacks stir alarm in Asia

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, has pacified almost no one on his two-week tour through Asia. He came as much to stress America's commitment to the region's security as to sell its plan to save cash by recalling a tenth of its 120,000 troops from the Pacific over the next three years. His legacy seems to have been a trail of anxiety.

If it was not Japan trying to explain to him that the Russian bear may well look tamer in Eastern Europe but was still growing in Asia, it was Japan's Asian neighbours worrying about whether Japan — and possibly even China or India — might move into any military vacuum left by the American cuts.

Mr Cheney's visit to the Philippines brought protests in Manila and a snub from President Aquino, who refused to see her visitor because of Washington's recent cuts in aid to the Philippines.

In Seoul, Mr Cheney's proposals to call home 5,000 of America's 43,500 troops from South Korea were taken with relatively good grace.

But in Japan, where Mr Cheney yesterday said Washington would like to withdraw 5,000 to 6,000 of its 50,000 troops there and broached the subject of Japan shouldering more of the cost of the remaining US troops, the Pentagon's plans left only confusion.

The Japanese Defence Agency says the cuts will not affect the country's defence capabilities and the Foreign Ministry says it would prefer things to stay as they are as long as the Soviet presence

remains strong in East Asia. Before Mr Cheney arrived, the commander of US Naval Forces in the Western Pacific, Vice-Admiral Henry Mauz, warned that pressing Japan to assume most of the costs of US forces stationed in Japan would give Tokyo too much say over US operations in the area.

At the very start of his tour, in Seoul, Mr Cheney made it clear: "We aren't going to move precipitously... Our commitment remains strong. The threat remains undiminished."

But defence experts predict that the end of the Cold War in Europe, Moscow's recent move to cut its forces in Cam Ranh Bay, the Vietnamese naval base, and Washington's budgetary headaches will force America to account for each

man and woman left in the region. They expect the current round of cuts to be the first of many.

Some also believe that fewer US troops in the Philippines — the forces police shipping lanes through the South China Sea for vessels carrying raw materials and oil to Japan — could persuade Japan to increase its own military strength.

Recruit figure: Mr Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's Prime Minister, was yesterday forced by his party's warlords to appoint Mr Mutsuki Kato, a former Agriculture Minister who received cut-price shares from Recruit, to a key job in his new administration.

The appointment is being trumpeted by the LDP as an end to the Recruit affair.

Leading Article, page 13

Nepal newspaper defies the censors

From Christopher Thomas, Kathmandu

Journalists at one of Nepal's biggest newspapers, the *Desanter*, are working on Sunday's issue from their bleak offices in one of Kathmandu's busy bazaars. But no doubt all 25,000 copies will be seized by police and destroyed.

After the seizure and destruction of the past four issues of the weekly, the attempt to publish *Desanter* has turned into a cat-and-mouse game with the authorities. As soon as it rolls off the presses, police cart it away.

Mr Shiva Adhikari, the editor, said he was determined to produce a full print run week after week, filling it with the sort of headlines the Government hates — last week's front page proclaimed

"Historic Movement Around The Country".

The movement for ending a 30-year ban on political parties so alarms King Birendra's Government that censors have been sent to newspaper offices to strike out "unfriendly" stories.

Mr Govinda Biyogi, editor-in-chief of the popular *Nepali Daily* (*Jamadoot* in Nepali), has given up putting out a newspaper because he refuses to bow to censorship. He also edits the *Nepali Weekly* (*Matribhoomi*), which he closed two weeks ago.

Mr Biyogi, president of the Nepalese Journalists' Association and a member of the country's Press Council, said 13 newspapers had suspended

publication rather than submit to censorship, which started this month, or seizure. He said the Press Act empowered the Government to close any newspaper at any time. There was no legal provision for censorship.

"The wave of democracy sweeping the world has encouraged opposition forces in Nepal," he said. "The campaign will continue."

There are more than 200 newspapers in the country, most of which broadly support the *panchayat* system of partyless elected assemblies. All but two of the newspapers that have now suspended publication oppose the system and support the agitation for multi-party democracy. The

other two papers, while supporting *panchayats*, oppose the Government.

The Government has adopted a strategy of trying to link the opposition movement with "foreign powers" — coded language for saying that India could try to exert influence through the banned Nepalese Congress, while China could do so through the seven communist parties that make up the United Leftist Front.

The *panchayat* system undeniably offers protection from direct political interference by the two giant neighbours, China and India, but the Government argues that a partyless system offers the greatest stability.

Ship burns after Gulf explosions

Dubai — The American-flagged Kuwaiti gas tanker, *Suri City*, was still on fire in the Gulf last night after a series of explosions. American Navy ships warned other vessels to keep away because of the risk of further blasts.

The captain and chief mate were killed instantly, but the rest of the crew of 25 escaped in the ship's lifeboat.

The cause of the explosions is still unknown. Merchant ships still receive warnings of the danger of mines left behind after the Iran-Iraq war, but first reports suggest leaking gas could have ignited.

MP to quit

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) — Mr D. P. Vijandran, Malaysia's deputy Speaker of Parliament, accused by opposition leaders of acting in pornographic films, has reportedly agreed to step down but will remain an MP.

Geologist shot

Manila (Reuters) — Guzman believed to be communist guerrillas have shot dead Mr John Mitchell, aged 42, an American geologist, his Filipino wife Marlon, and her father in an ambush in the central Philippines.

Beer boost

Moscow (Reuters) — The city council here has announced an ambitious plan to almost double the capital's beer production by the year 2000. Liquor stores were recently allowed to extend their hours.

Looting halted

Rosario, Argentina (AP) — The Government has increased police patrols and food coupons for hungry residents to end the looting that has again shaken Argentina's second-largest city.

Bomb attack

Dhaka (Reuters) — Mir Showkat Ali, a leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and a former army general, escaped unharmed when eight home-made bombs were thrown at his home.

Addled egg

Albuquerque (AP) — Fossil experts say an oblong object that officials last year proclaimed to be a fossilized egg up to 16 million years old is a stomach stone from a modern mammal, possibly a cow.

February 23 1990
Inflation
Down
says

'Browne talks' continue

Parliament next week

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February 22 1990

PARLIAMENT

Inflation made in Downing Street, says Kinnock

Mrs Thatcher again spent most of Prime Minister's question time fielding questions from MPs on both sides on the community charge, with Mr Neil Kinnock saying that most of Britain's inflation was made in Downing Street.

The Prime Minister counter-attacked with recollections of record high inflation under the Labour Government and with condemnation of unjustified extravagance by local authorities.

The issue spilled over into later questions on Commons business when an issue raised by Mr Denis Skinner, that education or other services should be removed from local authority expenditure, sparked calls for a debate on the subject.

Mr Kinnock raised the poll tax issue with Mrs Thatcher, asking her if she recognized that her high mortgage rate policies and poll tax policies are bound to put up the rate of inflation.

Mrs Thatcher: Our top priority is to get inflation down (Labour laughter). I hope that he will be aware that doing that in the long term has to be by making the price of money more expensive. If he does not know that, I am very surprised.

Mr Kinnock: She talks about combating inflation, but she is causing it (Labour cheers). It is clear that, because of the high interest rate and the poll tax, the level of inflation forced by the British people is mainly made in Downing Street.

Mrs Thatcher: He is grumbling right about it. Inflation level of 7.7 per cent. Under the Labour Government (Labour protests) ... it was 26.7 per cent - an all-time high in this century. Our record is far, far better than Labour's.

Mr Kinnock: This time last year she said to me, with inflation at 7.8 per cent, that it was proceeding towards zero. Now it is 7.7 per cent. Is that what she calls proceeding?

Conservative MPs: Yes. Mrs Thatcher: Because we have had growth faster than we have thought, it is taking longer to turn round, but nevertheless there is a record level of home owners and mortgage payers, 99 per cent of whom are managing to pay.

PRIME MINISTER

Fundamentally, those who put money into bricks and mortar have done better than those who put it into building societies.

Mr Dennis Turner (Wolverhampton South East, Lab) said that the local authority in Wolverhampton, to get to the poll tax level projected by the Government, needed to take out £28 million from its spending.

"That is equivalent to the whole of our social services and almost all our leisure services."

"Would she tell the people of Wolverhampton why they have to pay an additional £47, which has nothing to do with their services and which has been imposed by her Government? They want to know and they want it taken away."

Mrs Thatcher asked if they did not realize - "which I doubt" - that they were doing the worst possible thing by taking it out of the pockets of their residents, "because that's what they are doing if they are putting up the community charge higher than it need be".

Mr Dudley Fishburn (Kensington, C) asked if she would confirm that it was the Government's intention, once the community charge was in place, that private landlords who currently charged tenants rent and rates combined, should lower their charges.

Mrs Thatcher said yes. She hoped that private landlords would lower their charges. Various remedies were available to tenants whose landlords did not agree to such a reduction.

The Secretary of State for Environment (Mr Christopher Patten) was setting these out in a leaflet which would be widely available.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) asked if she could give any explanation as to why, despite all the money and propaganda spent on it, the poll tax was the most detested and hated tax brought into this country for centuries.

"If she disputes what I am saying, could we have a referendum on the poll tax?"

Mrs Thatcher said that a rating revolution of domestic

properties, which some of them had been through before, would have been infinitely more detested than the present community charge.

She understood why Labour did not like the charge. It would reveal that the highest spending councils were Labour.

An even worse remedy was Labour's roof tax - a local tax on capital values, regardless of whether the person living in the house owned it, and adding a test of income tax.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) asked if she had considered the possibility of reducing the poll tax by taking out education, maybe teachers' salaries, fire and police services, or a combination of any of the three. Would she rule that out before the next election?

Mrs Thatcher replied that the revenue-support grant already paid a substantial part of education, including teachers' salaries and police services, and the business rate paid a substantial other part.

It would be totally wrong to take education out and run it centrally. Better to do as the Government did by putting education away from the local authority, out to the people to run themselves.

If education were taken out, a very substantial part of revenue support grant would have to come out with it and, of course, some of the business rate as well.

Mr Des Dover (Chorley, C) asked what encouragement she could give to the people of Chorley who had quite sensibly "voted in" a Conservative-controlled borough council.

It was keeping exactly in line with government spending forecasts and yet was facing a sky-high community charge because of the very high spending of the Labour-controlled Lancashire County Council.

Mrs Thatcher said that there was no justification for extravagance on the part of any authority. Mr Patten had made clear that, where there was excessive spending, he would not hesitate to charge cap the council.

Mr John Fraser (Norwood, Lab) asked if she would confirm that there would be no poll tax capping before the end of March.

Mrs Thatcher said that



authorities had not yet set their criteria for charge capping. "It will take time. We will do it as soon as we can."

During business questions, Mr John Biffen (North Shropshire, C) said that time should be found for a debate on the need to transfer the total cost of education from local government to central government to make the community charge, which was right in principle, acceptable in practice.

Sir Geoffrey said that, without promising the prospect of a debate, he noted calls for one. The Government had no plans at present to change the way that education was funded.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that an early debate on local government finance would enable MPs to congratulate Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) on

Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab), was going to make a speech to describe Labour's roof tax proposals as a charade and a dreadful mess.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said that time should be found for a debate on the need to transfer the total cost of education from local government to central government to make the community charge, which was right in principle, acceptable in practice.

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doing what everyone in the country was entitled to do, to order their tax affairs to their best advantage.

If Mr Nellist was concerned about living in Wandsworth and about Militant forces coming around to knock him, "we can perhaps do a swap because I live in Lewisham, with a high community charge" (laughter).

Sir Geoffrey: Far be it from me to intervene in the somewhat hazardous domestic arrangements that Mr Bennett suggests.

Mr Skinner was asking Sir Geoffrey to reconsider having a debate on the poll tax when there was a shout from Mr Bennett, asking him: Where's your second home, Dennis?

Mr Skinner commented to laughter that it was "in highly rated Lambeth, and I am only a lodger".

Waddington is attacked on bombs inquiry

Angry Labour MPs criticised Home Office ministers over the slowness of investigations into the convictions in the Birmingham pub-bombings case of 1974.

Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said during questions that he had not yet completed his consideration of the further material presented to him on behalf of the six men convicted.

He would decide as soon as possible if that justified any intervention by him.

Mr Alan Meale (Mansfield, Lab) said that an important part of the case and of the convictions involved confessions taken by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, now disbanded because it had been found to have been forging confessions.

That should warrant a reopening of the inquiry into the case.

Mr Waddington said that he would carry out his duty to consider whether there was any new evidence or consideration of substance that might cast doubt on the safety of the convictions.

On the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, an inquiry was being carried out by West Yorkshire police.

Although their inquiry was concentrating on matters that had happened since 1986, he was sure that if they wished to take their inquiries further back in time because of any matters that came to their notice, they would do so.

Mr John Marshall (Hendon South, C) said that many people were rather tired of the constant, concerted campaigns trying to prove that these convicted criminals were innocent while the nature of their crime was forgotten.

Mr Waddington said that he did not think it was really right for him to comment because of the difficulty that he had to carry out.

Mr Robert Clay (Sunderland North, Lab) wondered whether the length of time that the Guildford four had wrongly spent in prison had hampered Mr

HOME OFFICE

Waddington as he continued to either, to prevaricate and to provide one excuse after another as the evidence showed that the Birmingham six were clearly innocent.

How many more months, if not years, would they have wrongly to spend in jail, like the Guildford four?

Mr Waddington said that these remarks were entirely uncalled for.

Mr Clay ignored the detailed investigation into these matters by the Devon and Cornwall Police and that, as a result of that investigation the matter had been taken to the Court of Appeal where there had been an exhaustive inquiry, both into the confessions by the Birmingham six and into the forensic science evidence.

Later Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab), said that Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, was hiding from the truth in the case of Sergeant Brian Morton, who had been expelled from the police force and jailed because he had beaten up a prisoner to try to extract a confession.

He had been at Queen's Road Police Station, Birmingham, during the entire time that the Birmingham six had been brutally beaten up to extract confessions from them.

This was the third time that he (Mr Flannery) had asked Mr Lloyd about the matter.

Mr Lloyd said that he had previously replied that Det Sergeant Morton had been in prison for an offence and that it had nothing to do with convictions of the six.

Morton had photographed one of them - Hill - at one point, but many officers had jobs at the periphery of the investigation in which they were not otherwise involved.

"Unless he has evidence otherwise, it is deeply irresponsible to imply otherwise."

Government issues poison waste plea

CYANIDE

An appeal to the public to keep a close watch for canisters of dangerous chemicals which might be washed up on the South Coast was made by Mr Patrick McLoughlin, Under Secretary of State for Transport, when questioned about the latest incident of containers of poison being found on Brighton beach.

He said that, thanks to prompt action by the police, fire brigade and local authority officials, six canisters of potassium cyanide and several canisters of other dangerous chemicals which were washed up yesterday were in safe storage.

It was still not known from which ship the chemicals had come.

Mrs Ann Taylor, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, said that this was potentially a highly dangerous situation for those in the vicinity of the containers.

Incidents of this kind were causing increasing concern. Coastal waters were in an appalling state made worse by problems like this and by the continued permission to dump industrial waste in the sea.

Were the containers properly labelled? What action was taken after the sinking of any ship known to be carrying toxic waste?

Did not this incident prove that the Government was wrong to reject the EC directive on vessels carrying dangerous goods entering or leaving Community ports? It should think again.

Mr McLoughlin said that it was wholly wrong for the Opposition to try to include this in the "dirty water syndrome". That was rubbish.

Between 200 and 300 ships a

day used the Dover Strait. "It is important and imperative that masters of these vessels operate under international agreements and if such cargoes are lost to report them immediately."

A conference of states bordering the North Sea was to prompt action by the police, fire brigade and local authority officials, six canisters of potassium cyanide and several canisters of other dangerous chemicals which were washed up yesterday were in safe storage.

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'Browne talks' continue

Consultations were still going on about the best way to debate the select committee report on MPs' interests, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said at business questions.

The report was very important for Mr John Browne (Winchester, C), who was asked by the committee for failing to declare interests) and for the House, he said. He hoped to announce proposals soon.

The matter was raised by Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, who asked whether Sir Geoffrey had considered how the House should deal with the report.

Port change

The Government is considering introducing legislation to convert trust ports such as the Port of the City of London into private companies, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said during business questions.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Landlord and Tenant (Licenced Premises) Bill, remaining stages. Private Bills.

Tuesday: Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Bill, second reading. Debate on the report of the EC Court of Auditors and accounts against fraud. Private Bills.

Wednesday: Debate on the Royal Air Force.

Thursday: Debate on Welsh affairs.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Planning Permission (Demolition of Houses) Bill and Radiation Exposed Crown Employees (Benefits) Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: Coal Industry Bill, committee. Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Education (Student Loans) Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debates on higher education and on a lottery to raise money for the arts, sport and the environment.

Thursday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, report, third day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Rights of Way (Agricultural Land) Bill and Access to Health Records Bill, second readings.

Change in Eastern Europe

Hurd calls for multi-party approach

A multi-party approach to what Britain could do for the emerging democracies in Eastern Europe was suggested by Mr Douglas Hurd when he opened a Commons debate on East-West relations.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told MPs that he wanted to look at what help "we might give to the political parties in Eastern Europe and perhaps elsewhere."

"We shall be in touch shortly with others in the House to see if we can reach some understanding about the way in which we could do that as a country."

"We professionals, parliamentarians and diplomats, businessmen and bankers, journalists and broadcasters, have to show the skill and imagination to follow up worthy work of, for example, the showed workers of Gdansk, the crowds in St Wenceslas Square and those who through the years defied the Berlin Wall."

Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said that he could not understand some of the language being used about Nato on both sides of the Atlantic. The idea should be dropped that Nato was going to become a political rather than a military organization. Unified defence would still be required.

German unification was inevitable. It created no problems for Britain. It was up to the two Germanies, not to copying powers nor interfering bodies from outside. It had long been recognized that when the two Germanies came together that was their affair and that Britain would no longer have an interest.

Mr Hurd said that a completely new phase of East-West relations was being entered. Until now the overriding need was to avert war, seek progress with arms control and greater respect for human rights.

"We must also welcome fresh ideas and original thought. That is unmistakably the new mood in this country, in the rest of Europe and across the Atlantic."

This had come across strongly in a remarkable series of meetings in Ottawa last week. It was less of a conference about "open skies" than of "open house."

"I came away with a strong sense that the Soviet Union is no longer sure of its moorings. The Warsaw Pact is no longer biddable. Democracy is starting to encroach. Soviet foreign policy is much more sensitive than before. I admire the Soviet leadership for riding the tide of events, but the pace and strength of the tide will increase over the next few months."

The dominating theme at Ottawa was German unification. We could be glad as friends of the new and democratic Germany that the recent painful division was coming to an end.

Momentum towards unification had built up quickly "and it is likely to happen sooner rather than later".

Mr Hurd said that a completely new phase of East-West relations was being entered. Until now the overriding need was to avert war, seek progress with arms control and greater respect for human rights.

"We must also welcome fresh ideas and original thought. That is unmistakably the new mood in this country, in the rest of Europe and across the Atlantic."

Mr Hurd: What help can we give their political parties?

German unification closely affected the interests of other countries. Britain was not alone in its concern. Others were worried that we seemed to be getting into a scramble towards unification, without having the framework for handling external aspects.

"Our message was not one of obstruction. It was that we risked muddle and instability if these issues were not addressed in an orderly way."

Out of that a notion grew up, particularly in parts of the German press, that Britain was in some way going back on our traditional support for the principle of unification.

"I hope that notion has now been dispelled to the comfort of us all."

He added: "We are now optimistic that German unification can be achieved in a way which fits a pattern of European stability and security acceptable to all."

The concept of a united Germany in Nato was important for the security of Europe as a whole.

There was growing consensus that American and other troops with nuclear weapons would need to remain in Germany in significant numbers as a stabilizing element. Special arrangements for East German territory might include the continued presence of Soviet troops on German soil for a transitional period.

He believed that the Soviet Union would accept that its own interests would be served by having Germany as a member of Nato.

Poland must be closely involved in discussions on the eastern border of a united Germany.

They had to consider the implications for the EC of an enlarged Germany. Transitional arrangements would be needed.

In the past year, more than 100 of them had closed, mainly because they or the village shop in which they were located had lost their commercial viability.

He was not complaining about the number of Government-funded services that sub-postoffices could provide, but he wanted them to be allowed to do more to improve their viability.

Mr Forth said there was a general perception that the Post Office network was shrinking. But there were still 19,300 sub-postoffices, compared with 22,100 80 years ago.



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Churches may be allowed to have own radio stations

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, held out the prospect at question time of more religious broadcasting, with churches owning their own radio stations and some satellite channels.

He said that he had recently had meetings with a number of groups on religious broadcasting. The Broadcasting Bill was an important piece of legislation on religious broadcasting.

The present blanket prohibition on religious sponsorship and advertising would be lifted and Christian and religious organizations would be able to own radio stations for the first time.

He was considering the question of a specific guarantee for religious programming on Channel 3 and an exceptional discretion to allow religious groups to own local and non-DBS (Direct Broadcasting Satellite) television services.

A further amendment would be made "in due course".

Mr David Allan (Liverpool, Macclesfield Hill, Lib Dem) asked for an assurance that he would look at provisions in the Bill which could radically curtail Christian broadcasting and introduce an amendment.

Mr Mellor did not accept that there was any restriction on Christian broadcasting beyond a



Mr Mellor: Blanket prohibition to be lifted.

point about editorializing. On the contrary, an expansion of Christian broadcasting was made possible by the Bill and it might go further, depending upon the outcome of discussions going on at the moment. Some of the leaflets that had been circulated about the effect of the Bill on religious broadcasting were inaccurate and a number of churchmen were saying they were inaccurate.

Mr Michael Allison (Selby, C),

a spokesman for the Church Commission in the Commons, said that he was gratified by the ministers' response.

Many church and Christian groups which had made representations were pleased by the positive way in which the Government was considering the proposals for developing the Bill in the ways the minister had indicated. He and Mr Allan hoped that he would persist with amendments.

Mr Mellor said he very much hoped the talks would be brought to a rapid conclusion.

Mr Robin Corbett, Opposition spokesman on broadcasting, welcomed his response to what was all-party pressure to require Channel 3 to carry religious broadcasts, but it could have been avoided if the Government had kept a public service requirement.

Mr Mellor said that Labour members of the broadcasting committee had played a full part in pressing the changes in religious broadcasting. He hoped that what emerged would be judged worth while.

He did not agree that the whole matter could have been better dealt with under a public service umbrella. "What we shall be getting is an expansion of Christian broadcasting and that is what most people want to see."

Minister's post office pledge

A pledge that he would continue to look for new business activities for Britain's 19,000 sub-postoffices was given in the Commons late on Wednesday by Mr Eric Forth, Under Secretary of State for Industry and Consumer Affairs.

He added, however, that difficulties would be caused if post offices encroached on areas provided by the private sector because private local businesses could be endangered.

He was replying to Sir Michael McNab-Williams (Newbury, C), who had expressed fears for the future of sub-postoffices, especially those in the country, saying that a shadow lay across their future.

In the past year, more than 100 of them had closed, mainly because they or the village shop in which they were located had lost their commercial viability.

He was not complaining about the number of Government-funded services that sub-postoffices could provide, but he wanted them to be allowed to do more to improve their viability.

Mr Forth said there was a general perception that the Post Office network was shrinking. But there were still 19,300 sub-postoffices, compared with 22,100 80 years ago.

Moors case 'must wait'

Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, declined to be drawn on whether he would release the moorers murderers, Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, when their cases were next reviewed.

Sir Fergus Montgomery (Aldridge and Sale, C) had asked for an undertaking that, in view of their "terrible crimes", people such as Hindley and Brady would never be let out of prison.

Mr Waddington said that a formal review would begin this year in accordance with what was said at the last review five years ago. It did not follow that the board would recommend release nor that he would necessarily accept such a recommendation.

Mr Waddington had said earlier that he was considering

HOME OFFICE

carefully the recommendations of the House of Lords select committee on murder and life imprisonment and the release of life-sentence prisoners.

Mr James Crag (Beverley, C) said that in the 25 years up to 1987, about 51 per cent of those killed in England and Wales were killed by those previously convicted of homicide.

Against that background, would he consider more openness in the review procedure? Second, would he be examining the assessment procedure which was at the heart

SPECTRUM

Face to face with a tunnel visionary

Is the Eurotunnel chief executive as abrasive as his reputation? Brian James discovers the real Alastair Morton

The taxi-driver, given Victoria Plaza as the address yesterday, bawled back: "Going to see Alastair Morton? Seems like a decent honest bloke to me. Can't see why he always gets a write-up as real hard rotter."

It was not the snarling boor who keeps being nasty to the chaps actually boring the Channel Tunnel who waited in the modest-looking chairman's office at Eurotunnel headquarters. They said to watch out; chuck grenades into the conversation, he'll answer with a barrage. Actually, all he did was grin a lot. And giggle.

But of course, this was one of the better mornings he has known in the past six months of furious argument over who should pay the extra costs (estimate up from £4.2 billion to £7.2 now) already arising in the world's greatest engineering project: the builders, represented by Transmanche-Link, or the money men, for whom Morton leads the charge.

In the Eurotunnel reception area, newspaper headlines, both English and French, spoke of "peace" having broken out. A valid term for the battlefield he surveyed yesterday morning? "Between September and mid-February we had lived on the balance of about £230 million held back from the £1 billion of our original equity. That money was exhausted so, unless we got money from the banks, the project would have stopped. This week, in such circumstances, people are bound to get a little twitchy with each other."

TML had hoped to get rid of him (Morton nodded in a sort of unworried agreement) and he had hoped to make them back down on the issue of their costs? "If the contractors can substantiate their claims, then they will have to be paid. What gets us down is that they haven't substantiated their claims, they have simply talked about them."

I had read that in the appointment of John Neerhout (the new project manager who will be the buffer between Morton and the 10 warring contractors) the men doing the tunnelling will "at last be faced with a man used to getting dirt under his nails". Implying, of course, that Morton's skills were confined to managing money and board-rooms, not men, and especially not practical men.

That suggestion brought an observable bristle. "People do have terrible problems deciding what my speciality is. I have a law degree and a maths degree but I don't work as a mathematician or a lawyer. I am numerate, I studied as an actuary, but I do not work as an accountant. I have run a mining company and a merchant bank, an oil company, I have worked in industrial finance, in project finance, I have run companies in turn-around situations, I was in the nuclear power industry... now you tell me what I am."

An impressive C.V., of course, I began... "Maybe, but contractors only say 'ah, he is not a contractor'."

I accept that. But, no, it doesn't make me uncomfortable in the company of men who talk about widgets. I was chairman of a company making machine tools, saved another cutting tools from bankruptcy, saved factories, shut down factories, faced strikes. Practical men do not worry me."

It had been clear that management of the tunnel was in disarray. But was he the cure, or the cause? Every item about him in recent months had used words such as "ruthless", "domineering", "brusque": radio interviews reached for terms like Morton's "arrogance", and settled for the safe "abrasive". Did he recognize himself?

"Well, I have to accept other people think that, though I have been 'abrasive' so long I must now be totally abraded. I have been involved in the management of change for 22 years. From time to time you get a difference of opinion. Then you can back down, go around, or you can tackle it directly. Most people would say that you would always find Alastair Morton tackling it directly. And at which point he will

try very hard indeed, to gain the point he wishes to gain. I would not be the person asked to come and sit here if I were not so."

Did he not truly enjoy the "turbulence"? "No I simply refuse to be intimidated by other people. I have not, once, made a personal attack on any one on the other side. Not one. You won't find a single instance."

"But since September you will find a series of attacks on both me and Andrew Benard (the French co-chairman). First me. Then him. Then me. You have two very obstinate and determined chairman, and we have not budged from the job, looking after shareholders' interests."

He had several times referred to one-sided personal attacks, did this imply he was in any way hurt by references to his character and management techniques? "It implies only that I don't think this vituperation is very helpful, serves any purpose. I may call a man a fool, or something else, in a meeting, but it ends with the meeting. Then it's over. You use words like 'fool' when talking to fellow executives? "Only if it is absolutely justified. I don't believe in gratuitous insults... it is not unnatural for people to occasionally get exasperated."

Morton said his family, too, wondered aloud about the image he has acquired. "I am a pussy-cat. Not the sort of chap who gets into tempers and kicks the dog. I can get a bit, well, sharp when I find inefficiency. Or deceit."

Alastair Morton, the way he tells it, is a man consumed with the idea of getting value for money. Is he, in effect, the ultimate housewife? His laughter rattled the windows. "Haven't heard that before, but I love it. And it happens to be true."

Who were the people he kept falling out with? "Some of the Brits and a very few of the French."

They would say I was *sympathique* to the point of view of the French. I admire their engineering and the education."

Does the ancient enmity between us and the French play any part in the turmoil? "None. It is simply not an issue. Benard and I are both international people. He has worked all his life for Shell. I am a South-Africa born, American-experienced person of Scottish descent. The one thing I am not is an Englishman, and I believe you know what I mean by that. My directness is not that of the local product."

Bernard Levin had suggested this week that no sane man would invest money in such a project without a reasonable prospect of finding a diamond field half-way over (Morton giggled), and that, more seriously, the only reason banks continued to find money in that they were in too deep to pull out. True? "Yesterday Natwest wrote off £1 billion. They are in to us for £20 million, small change by these standards, and they are the biggest of the 200 banks in the consortium. No, they stay in because it still makes as much sense now as when they came in."

But would it be as easy now to persuade institutions to dig deeply into their funds? "We shall soon see. Somewhere between June and Christmas there will be a rights issue of between £400 and £500 million, the syndicate of banks will be asked for something over one billion. Serious money. So we have got to persuade some pretty hard-headed institutions that this thing is in working order."

Is the project facing a serious threat, or just a delay? "If we go into our meeting with shareholders in May with this sort of noise still going on behind us, then yes. There is a condition in the credit facilities for the £5 billion we have that at all times we must be able to show that we have enough funds committed to the project to complete. Clearly we have been in breach. Temporarily. But if we get to a situation where we could not hold a fund raising, then we would be irrevocably in breach."

"There is no way TML can argue that the new level of executives we have put in are not professional, capable and strong." But as strong? Will Neerhout be as successful at banging heads as your reputation, at least, makes you? "He has had a lot of experience at it. And, anyway, it doesn't have to be done by banging, but by showing them, by reasoning. But firmly."



The profile of a boardroom battler: but Eurotunnel's Alastair Morton says "practical men do not worry me"

Indulge yourself when you retire

Even if you're looking forward to a reasonable pension, it may not stretch to indulgence.

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Africa, here we come

As the first sanctions lift, Britain leads a holiday safari to the Cape

In six weeks' time, South African Airways will add a tenth flight to its weekly timetable between Britain and South Africa.

It will be the first direct scheduled flight from Manchester to Johannesburg, and it is the clearest possible indication of how the Government's voluntary ban on the promotion of travel to South Africa, introduced in 1986, became a mockery even before it was lifted yesterday.

Mrs Thatcher signalled that the sanction was to be the first to be discarded, after the release of Nelson Mandela, when she said: "We do not believe that in these changed circumstances it is reasonable to discourage tourism or visits to South Africa: it is for individual British citizens to make up their own minds."

For the last couple of years they have been doing that in their thousands. The ban did have some marginal effect when it was first introduced. The number of Britons visiting South Africa fell by nearly a third, to 83,000, as three leading tour firms, Kuoni, Abercrombie & Kent and Tradewinds voluntarily dropped South African destinations from their brochures. In the spirit of the times, Thomas Cook also divested itself of its interest in a South African subsidiary.

But SAA and the South African Tourist Board responded by simply boosting their own advertising and promotional budgets in Britain. A result has been that, according to Phillip Unterhorst, regional manager of South African Airways in the United Kingdom and Ireland: "For the last nine months we've been operating to full capacity." Unterhorst says his advertising budget has risen from nothing in 1985 to about £750,000 today. The number of British visitors to South Africa has increased



Going, going: holiday brochures to South Africa

steadily from its low in 1986 to an estimated 130,000, close to its all-time high, last year.

Frances Griffith, tours director of Tempo Travel, one of the leading British tour firms which ignored the voluntary ban, says the South African advertising (on the theme "See what's happening for yourself") whetted a lot of appetites. "People who went down there found the Rand was weak and the place was good value. It had excellent hotel accommodation and touristic infrastructure. They came back and told their friends. The word got around that South Africa was a good place to spend your holiday."

The country is not a typical package tour destination. According to British Airways, there is "a lot of business traffic". Many tourists stay with families and friends, for an average stay of 31 days. Tempo offers a variety of elements, such as hotels and car hire, so that travellers can build their tours.

Another leading tour operator which did not withdraw its programme is Speedbird Holidays, owned 51 per cent

by British Airways, and 49 per cent by the Association of London Travel Agents, which includes members such as Hogg Robinson. Marion Tuckerman, senior product manager, says: "We've seen a quite sensational growth in bookings - up 60 per cent - over the past two years. We have difficulty finding the space."

Companies which withdrew in 1986 are beginning to reverse their decisions. John Sim, product manager at Kuoni, says pulling out "was a commercial decision which just happened to coincide with politics" - although the company maintained "tailor-made" holidays. Now it has reintroduced South African destinations into its 1989-90 tour programme and will this year carry an estimated 1,000 visitors on a variety of tours, with prices from £1,443 per person. Pimrose Stobbs, sales and marketing director at Abercrombie & Kent, says that her company withdrew originally "to safeguard the interests of our companies" in

other African countries, such as Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. "We couldn't afford to upset them at that stage."

A&K currently has three tours in the republic. It will reintroduce the destination into its programme next year.

No operator or airline is sure whether Mandela's release has led to a further upsurge in demand. "It is early days yet," Kuoni's Sim says. But it is significant that Thompsons, Britain's largest tour operator, is considering putting the country on its programme.

Steve Carney, director of Thompson Worldwide, says: "We are not going to make a decision overnight. But we are planning our 1991 programme and South Africa might well be included. We were not trading there largely because of the political situation. But that situation is changing. We want to see what is happening there over the next few months before we put it in our programme. It is a wonderful destination."

Andrew Lycett

هكذا من الأصل

FRIDAY PAGE

'I happen to think a pseudo-Marxist fog is one of the worse pollutants around'

In a *Times* column last week, Woodrow Wyatt criticized the BBC radio programme, *Today*, for its leftwing bias. His column was based on a report of the Media Monitoring Unit (a privately-funded, rightwing lobby group) which studied a fortnight in the life of the *Today* programme and concluded that the programme's approach was nothing short of blatant anti-government propaganda.

Lord Wyatt did not sugar the pill. He reminded us of the early broadcasting career of *Today's* presenter, Brian Redhead, who, it seems, played the clarinet on *Children's Hour* in 1941. "Removing him to a five-year stint on something similar is overdue," concluded Lord Wyatt. Ouch, I thought.

Later in the week, showing its balance and impartiality, *The Times* ran a column in response by BBC Deputy Director-General John Birt. "The BBC aspires keenly to the concept of impartiality," wrote a temperate Mr Birt. "In the cut and thrust of a given day this is necessarily an imperfect process — and we constantly seek to improve our performance; but we have no doubt that over a period of significant years receive a full airing." Mmm, I responded as I read that, reaching for more butter on my toast.

The BBC's Mr Birt is right, of course, when he says that you cannot have perfect balance within any single programme. Solomon himself couldn't achieve

this, nor is it necessary. Only people who do not understand either human nature or the nature of a news and public affairs broadcast would expect it. In so far as one wants balanced programming, it must be within the spectrum of the year or season.

At the same time, one must also agree with Lord Wyatt that it is unlikely you will have balanced programming if most of the people working for the BBC have decidedly unbalanced views. However, having said this, I think we have a discussion of approaches to child abuse, welfare schemes, foreign aid, or regulatory reform of the stock market — to name but a few issues.

All the same, in my view we can do nothing about this fog, and we ought not to do anything about it because the minute you try to correct the matter you open the door to something much worse. If you try to stop the *Zeitgeist* by administrative edict or loyalty tests to be given to BBC producers or the imposition of staff quotas of right-thinking personnel — if, in other words, you do the very thing that left-wingers would happily do

very dissimilar to that period in the Thirties when George Orwell noted a similar affliction among many of our leading intellectuals. Myself, I deplore this, simply because I happen to think that a pseudo-Marxist fog is one of the worse pollutants around, filtering just about everyone's view of the earth. BBC listeners and viewers, for example, who do not subscribe to a contemporary liberal ethos aren't likely to see or hear a sympathetic treatment of their viewpoints, whether it is discussions of approaches to child abuse, welfare schemes, foreign aid, or regulatory reform of the stock market — to name but a few issues.

All the same, in my view we can do nothing about this fog, and we ought not to do anything about it because the minute you try to correct the matter you open the door to something much worse. If you try to stop the *Zeitgeist* by administrative edict or loyalty tests to be given to BBC producers or the imposition of staff quotas of right-thinking personnel — if, in other words, you do the very thing that left-wingers would happily do



BARBARA AMIEL

if they could, namely re-educate people — you threaten freedom in the most fundamental way. The only thing that we can and should do is to try to influence the *Zeitgeist* through patient work, such as that of pressure groups like the Media Monitoring Unit, or by good writing, such as that of Lord Wyatt. It is a slow business and a painstaking one, but it is the only remedy.

Lord Wyatt, apparently, sent the BBC a questionnaire which, among other matters, asked about the political affiliations of the staff on *Today*. How did they vote? To which political club did they belong? This is fascinating stuff, no doubt, but I think it misses the point. It doesn't really matter to what political party people belong — they may well consider themselves Conservatives. It is the cultural assumptions they have that tell one more. For example, you can know everything about a person if you discover that a man carries his baby in a harness on his body like a kangaroo. This is not foolproof, I know, but it's damn close.

About 10 years ago, when I was cursing about the ideological bias at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, I thought up a questionnaire for CBC producers myself. It was a variant of James Burnham's test. In his book *Suicide of the West*, he asked readers to list, in order of importance to them, the terms (1) Freedom, meaning freedom and liberty of the individual; (2) Liberty, meaning national indepen-

dence and self-government; (3) Justice, in the sense of distributive justice; and (4) Peace, meaning the absence of large-scale warfare. It's a good test and to see whether you are a classic liberal or a postwar liberal, turn to Chapter 9.

My test was a lot more wordy. It asked for "true or false" responses to questions such as "The problems of the Third World are largely caused by excesses of the First". That's all dated now, but I can't resist suggesting to Lord Wyatt and Mr Birt that if questionnaires are to be ditched out to BBC staff, they might come up with a more interesting range than voting preferences. How about the following teasers for *Today* presenters Sue MacGregor and Brian Redhead:

1 If you could ban only one drug, would it be (a) belladonna (b) opium or (c) nicotine? 2 You are a wealthy person, late for a meeting. Do you (a) get on your bicycle (b) take the Underground (c) call a helicopter or BBC car. Whichever you do, which do you think would have been the moral choice? 3 Faced with two equally awesome dictators, one of whom

has expressed some friendly feelings towards Britain and one of whom has not, which one's latest atrocity will fire you to write a letter of protest sooner? 4 Do you believe the internal combustion engine is antisocial by nature? 5 If you are determined to provide the one job available in your firm to a class that has suffered previous discrimination, will you choose (a) a black male lower-class immigrant (b) a white middle-class woman (c) an upper-class homosexual of either gender? Supplementary question: whichever choice you make, do you agonize over it?

Not every single person is affected by the *Zeitgeist*, although we are all infected by it to some extent. After all, some of the generation of Arthur Koestler saw the fog and came out of it. Once you emerge into the sunshine, from Koestler to Paul Johnson, such people become the most adamant fighters. Myself, I think the Marxist fog is dissipating a bit and now is the worst possible time for what Lord Wyatt is demanding — right and well-meaning though he may be. It is not that his analysis is wrong, it is that his prescription is as bad as the disease. All the same, do you find a far cape covering one's shoulders more immoral than a leather belt holding up someone's trousers? And a supplementary question: have you ever analysed why you think more highly of minks than of cows? I must say, Lord Wyatt's idea is catching.

How ideal is your home?

Not many British homes resemble those in the life-style features of glossy magazines — despite the profusion of such publications.

The reality — Habitat jumbled together with heirlooms, plus a lifelong accumulation of junk — will be celebrated for probably the first time in an "anti-design" exhibition which will open at the Victoria & Albert Museum next Wednesday, and is scheduled to run even longer than the Ideal Home exhibition, until the end of May.

It is a bold step for Britain's leading design museum to take, giving gallery space to photographs of drab furniture in dingy interiors, socks drying over radiators and sticky kitchen cupboards full of HP Sauce. But it is the organizers' thesis that such scenes will have more relevance to future social historians than all the Laura Ashley catalogues and colour supplements put together.

Charles Newton, the V&A curator responsible for the exhibition, justifies this return to the grass roots — or, in some cases, the grubby linoleum — as a response to "a groundswell of interest in how people actually live, rather than how design experts say we should live". He attacks the "conspiracy of silence among magazines which show 'ideal homes' and an idealized perception of 'lifestyles'", which can be daunting for real people to attempt to measure up to. In this exhibition, mediocrity is imbued with merit.

The "Household Choices" project has been two years in

Real people don't live in the immaculate interiors shown in magazines, and the V&A can prove it. Victoria McKee reports

the making, has involved social anthropologists and psychologists and "design theoreticians", and will be supported by a book, a video, a travelling exhibition, teaching packs and a newsletter. It attempts to prove that an Englishman's home is not just a castle-in-the-air but a bastion of personal choice, a battleground in which primitive power and territorial struggles are carried out, and a cocoon providing succour in a hostile world.

Tim Putnam, director of the MA course in the History of Design at Middlesex Polytechnic, which has co-ordinated the project with the V&A, says: "What has emerged quite strongly is that people often set the way their home is at a particular time and it stays that way, regardless of what is going on in design magazines." This "time warp" factor means that the home of the Nineties, if there could be said to be such a thing, might have furniture from the Sixties and Seventies and the technology of the Eighties in a framework from the Fifties.

The social anthropologist Daniel Miller, one of the panel of speakers who will participate in a seminar on the opening day of the exhibition, sees the home as "defining the relationship of its occupants

to a set of larger values", with "people using home decoration as a way of trying out different personas". Even people who do not expect visitors are having dialogues through their homes with a larger outside world.

That seems to invest some of the dreary interiors to be displayed with a greater significance than they appear, to the untutored eye, to deserve. But the enthusiastic experts involved in the exhibition are able to invest the placing of a plant pot on a particular stair with the importance of a major design decision.

Miller, who has recently done a study of the kitchens of council houses, discovered that "men tend to define themselves in terms of the physical transformation of the kitchen and women with the aesthetics, so that often changing the kitchen was seen as an exchange of labour between men and women which defined their social relationships with each other".

The "design theoretician" Valerie Swales, who will also be on the panel, sees the home as a battleground between the sexes. She has been doing a particular study among fam-

ilies in the Birmingham area on "how people arrange their lives to achieve maximum privacy".

"People become very primitive and territorial," she says. "A woman can feel a room is really hers until her husband comes in and it becomes his. Maybe he'll sit in the dominant chair, or maybe he'll bring in his papers and take over. One husband had his computer desk in the bedroom and his wife put make-up by it and he'd always hurl it into the bin."

Swales has found "a general acknowledgment that the woman has more of an eye for design than the man — although often she has to scheme to get what she wants and makes the husband think it's his idea". She has met no one, she insists, who looks to the design industry for inspiration, and says the people she spoke to "regard design experts as untrustworthy and out of touch".

Most people copy ideas from friends, her research has shown, rather than from the pages of magazines — even if they enjoy reading the magazines.

Although there will be a section in the exhibition entitled "Ideal Homes", featuring a room set from a contemporary show-home, this is almost to be held up to ridicule rather than as an example of an ideal. But Putnam concedes that the design revolution has trickled through, even to "people who traditionally didn't decorate", and the proliferation of glossy magazines in the homes and interiors market would appear to contradict the basic premise of the exhibition.



The way we live: design theoretician Valerie Swales in the favourite corner of her home — "a battleground between the sexes"

Dee Nolan, editor of the magazine *Metropolitan Home*, to be launched in Britain in September, emphasizes that there is "a great gap between socks on a radiator and an idealized way of living."

Some magazines can be too aspirational, but ours will not be bringing in the props. We will be photographing real homes, and it is possible to give people ideas even if they don't have loads of money to

spend." And Min Hogg, editor of Condé Nast's *World of Interiors*, says: "We do houses as they are, whether people like it or not. And people must like it... Of course we've all had socks on the radiator —

but hopefully not when our home is being photographed. What is the V&A thinking of, running such an anti-design exhibition? I don't think Queen Victoria would be at all amused."

Greener whites

Rifat Ozbek may have decreed that the colour of the season is white — but as far as Friends of the Earth and fashion company Basic English are concerned, it's off-white. They've teamed up to produce the first environmentally-sound range of clothes, featuring western-style jackets and jeans, dungarees, skirts and shirts, all in creamy, unbleached cotton or indigo, using the only widely available vegetable dye. A royalty on every garment sold goes to help FoE's work. The collections, with prices starting at £27.99 for jeans, are available through Miss Selfridge, Top Shop and Top Man; items will also be featured in Friends of the Earth's new catalogue, available shortly from FoE, Hayle, Cornwall T27 6FE.

ECOSPHERE

News on environmental issues

Bin it

Recycling is good for the planet — but bad for kitchen clutter, requiring (until now) a jumble of boxes or bins to separate out household rubbish. The "Better Bin", however, can be fitted into any worktop unit, enabling you to store bottles, cans, newspapers and compost-worthy peelings tidily and hygienically. A snug-fitting plastic lid seals in any smells, and a removable inner basket can be used for transportation to your local bottle bank or dump. For details of where to obtain the unit (price £34.50), contact Better Bin Designs, Dean

Clough Industrial Park, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 5AX (0422 330431).

Garden call

Dig & Delve Organics is a new garden supplies business dedicated to encouraging the organic movement. Its catalogue offers chemically-untreated seeds, pest and weed controllers, manures and mulches (where possible approved by the Soil Association), the Henry Doubleday Research Association (or both); the list features varieties which are particularly suited to organic cultivation. For a catalogue, write to Dig & Delve Organics, Freepost, Blo' Norton, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2BR.

Ozone watch

Schoolchildren all around the country are being rallied to help with The Ozone Project, organized by Watch, the ju-

nior and youth wing of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, in conjunction with Volvo. Teachers can slot it into many stages of the National Curriculum, with children monitoring low-level ozone by growing and observing the ozone-sensitive nicotiana plant: the greater the level of ozone (which is linked to coughing, headaches and damage to crops, forests and lungs), the more the leaves will "spot". The results will be collated in the autumn of this year to provide a comprehensive map of low-level ozone pollution in the UK, which will then be compared with the Department of the Environment's own results. The complete Ozone Project Pack is available, price £5 inc p&p, from The Ozone Project, Freepost (SL1647), Slough SL2 3BH, or from the Science Museum shop.

Josephine Fairley

Why mother knows best

A few years before she died, Michael Palin's mother confided in him. He had been entirely her idea, she said. She had engineered the whole thing. His father, not very well off and trying to keep up appearances, couldn't decide whether they should have a second child or not.

So his mother, already in her late thirties and quite

certain of what she wanted, made the decision for him. "Whatever method of birth control my mother was using, she didn't use on that night in 1942," he says. "And I was the result: the ultimate mother's story."

In *The Times* on Saturday, Michael Palin, actor, author, comic, talks to Ray Connolly about his childhood.



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JAPAN'S TROUBLED FUTURE

In theory, the Liberal Democratic Party's unexpectedly convincing electoral victory ends a period of exceptional political uncertainty in Japan. Both for good and for ill, however, the party's re-established control of the Lower House does not quite mean business as usual.

The LDP is on notice that it will in future have to take more account of public opinion — not only of Japan's increasingly articulate consumers, but of its supporters in business, who were quick to remind the party this week that they expect it to introduce political and electoral reforms. The temptation to resume the customary jockeying for power may be tempered by the recognition that the voters expect the LDP to bring in younger men, a demand reflected in the first round of party appointments.

That does not necessarily mean that Japan will be more accommodating in its dealings with the outside world. The campaign was intensely parochial. Not only were Japan's new international responsibilities ignored; concessions made during the campaign, such as the promise to maintain barriers against rice imports, will limit the new government's room for manoeuvre in international negotiations. Its defeat in last summer's elections for the Upper House means, moreover, that it will have to deal with a highly protectionist opposition in pushing through the market-opening legislation for which its trade partners are pressing.

Even before the announcement of the new Cabinet, the government has been reminded that one part of the international agenda will not wait — the state of US-Japanese relations. On Tuesday the US Defence Secretary, Mr Dick Cheney, arrived in Tokyo to announce plans to reduce the 50,000-strong US military presence in Japan, simultaneously seeking a substantial increase in Japan's contributions to the upkeep of those that remain. He was given a polite lecture on Japan's perception of the continued Soviet military threat.

Yesterday a negotiating team arrived from Washington to resume negotiations on the "structural impediments" to economic co-

operation between the two countries. Put politely, the American objective is to alter deep-rooted practices — the low savings rate in the US as well as a Japanese distribution system that militates against foreign traders — which contribute to the trade imbalance. In reality, the US is seeking early Japanese commitments to reduce trade barriers in forest products, satellites and super-computers, enforce fair bidding rules in the construction industry, and promote the establishment of large stores which would be more hospitable to foreign imports than Japan's networks of small shopkeepers.

All these are political, not technical, issues in Japan: the US is in effect asking the LDP to alienate the bedrock of its political support. Yet the strong anti-Japanese sentiment already evident on Capitol Hill means that in the absence of agreement, hostilities could open in earnest.

The impact on the global economy in general, and this year's all-important international Uruguay Round in particular, would be considerable. Awareness of the stakes — reflected in the nervousness on the Tokyo Stock Exchange this week — should spur agreement, but possibly at the cost of increasing Japanese resentments against what many people see as unfair external pressures to change not just their trading practices, but their cultural traditions.

There is no international interest in fanning these resentments, but Japan must meet its critics half way. Japan's economy remains set for steady growth; its per capita GNP is expected to exceed that of the United States by 45 per cent within five years. Its reach is global: the recovery of Eastern Europe will to a critical extent depend on its financial and managerial commitments, and its international aid budget now amounts to \$11 billion a year. Political wisdom and flexibility will be needed if Japan is to surmount what LDP leaders are already saying will be a "harsh period" of adjustment. The quality of the new Cabinet will provide a clearer indication than last Sunday's vote of the LDP's willingness to rise to the challenge.

VICTIM'S CHARTER

Victims of crime are firmly established as "the foremost priority" in the Government's integrated approach to criminal justice, the Home Office said yesterday. Anyone who has ever been a victim or felt sympathy for one might applaud that unequivocal statement, made yesterday with the launch by Mr David Waddington, QC, the Home Secretary, of a "Victim's Charter".

The movement to cater for their needs has been gathering momentum. Most recently the Select Committee on Home Affairs said victims of violent crime were being injured twice over because of a "scandalous" backlog of claims awaiting attention at the publicly-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Yet fewer than a quarter of victims of violent crime apply for compensation.

The board will need to draw increasingly on Government resources. An additional 60 staff were announced yesterday along with an extra £17 million available for payments through the scheme in the coming financial year. The board paid out more than £69 million in 1988 to victims of violent crime and there is a backlog of more than 90,000 cases.

There can be no quarrel with arrangements to provide support for victims either after crime or when they have to go to court as witnesses. The charter admits that because many court buildings are old and without nearby space it is not always possible to find separate waiting rooms for witnesses and for people facing charges. "Everyone recognizes that this can be intimidating to witnesses, and is not at all ideal." That is an understatement. Intimidation of witnesses may in an extreme case pervert justice.

The charter is more controversial in referring to the victim's influence on the decision whether to take criminal proceedings: "In deciding whether a prosecution is in the public interest the Crown Prosecutor will also take into account the interests of the victim."

That may be admirable in principle, but as the charter recognizes, a prosecution may for other reasons not be justified and thus not proceed with.

There must be similar reservations about the police taking into account the view of the victim in deciding whether to start proceedings. It may be said that the police will not be swayed in their decision, but if there is not that possibility, what is the point of taking such views into account? The only convincing justification in the charter is that if there is a caution the case never comes before the court so there is no prospect of an order to compensate the victim. Some might argue it is right that the victim's plea in that respect should be taken into account.

Victims and their families can also express their misgivings about possible release of a life sentence prisoner, so that they can be taken into account in deciding what restrictions there should be on where the offender works or lives. While anxieties should as far as possible be allayed, the need for rehabilitating the offender should not be forgotten either if he is returning to his home area with a better chance there of not reoffending.

Priority is being given to the victim in other ways. When an offender is convicted, the court must always consider ordering him to pay some compensation. This must come ahead of a fine if the court is considering both.

The charter is a valuable description of what is being done for victims. The Government would be wrong, however, to make the victim "firmly established as the foremost priority" in its integrated approach to criminal justice. The implication has not been thought through. The victim is important and has correctly been given more aid. But it is the public interest which must always be considered the "foremost priority." Pre-court decisions made in the name of justice must remain biased in favour of no one.

UNREST IN NEPAL

Nepal's unique constitution and the future of its crown looked more doubtful than ever last night after nearly a third of the country's parliamentarians issued a statement openly challenging the government. A former Prime Minister, six ex-ministers and two legislators nominated by the king signed the document amid continuing violence and threats of civil action.

Their criticism would seem to be well justified. With five more deaths reported from the capital Kathmandu and further demonstrations planned for Sunday, the power structure headed by the monarch King Birendra is coming under pressure which may in the end prove overwhelming.

Popular protest in Nepal is not new, but the last wave fizzled out five years ago without attaining the dimensions of the present one. With the inspiration of Eastern Europe to draw on, those calling for urgent radical reform have been undeterred by harsh government reaction. Now there is evidence of deep divisions in the national legislature.

At the core of the trouble is the power of the crown. In 1960 the then king scrapped his father's brief experiment with a multi-party parliamentary system and created a network of local *panchayats*, or non-party councils, with a national *panchayat*, or parliament, in the capital. Real power, however, remained with the throne. It was, he maintained, the dependence of Nepal's political parties on foreign powers, particularly India, which necessitated the change. He also argued that as Nepal had never been a colony, it could not simply imitate Western democratic institutions but had to devise a system of its own.

Although intellectuals and the small urban middle class resented the change, the illiterate peasant majority remained unquestioningly

loyal to the throne. A referendum in 1980 confirmed support for the *panchayat* system. Opposition to the system has steadily mounted however.

As the kingdom's middle classes grew, so did their frustration with the political straitjacket in which they found themselves. They began to see the absence of democracy as the fount of increasing corruption, censorship and chronic economic problems. The election of a new government in India, committed to refurbishing the country's own democracy, may also have encouraged the leaders of the present protest movement.

So far King Birendra's only answer has been to repress the strikes and demonstrations. More than 700 people have been arrested while the police have opened fire on the protesters. The opposition has been weakened by the detention of so many of its leaders and many others have been driven underground, but reports from Kathmandu suggest that the call for change will not easily be silenced.

Nepal's politicians have until now been loyal to the throne and are calling for nothing more revolutionary than a constitutional monarchy. If the reform movement continues to be thwarted, however, it may well be taken over by extremists, notably by Nepal's newly united communist factions, who will want to see the monarchy abolished.

The time has therefore come for the king to make sensible concessions. He needs to re-establish calm and to win back the disaffected classes. By restoring the right of political parties to function in a fully fledged parliament he would probably satisfy the aspirations of the moderate majority. By standing firm against the rising tide of protest he runs an increasing risk of being swept aside by it.

Private patients and their bills

From Dr R. M. H. Lefever
Sir, As a general practitioner in a fully private practice I am in a good position to observe the fees charged by private specialists and in private hospitals and to judge whether these are reasonable (reports, February 1 and 19, letter, February 19).

A surgeon told me that he would, of course, be seeing a patient for two follow-up visits "because the insurance company would pay". For a benign cyst this had little clinical justification. I believe that such a patently mercenary approach is sensed by the patient who then may question my own clinical judgement and impartiality and even wonder if I, as the referring doctor, take a financial cut from those fees.

A private hospital charged a total of £350 for drugs and dressings for a patient who had simply fallen down some steps and lacerated his back. The quantities dispensed in no way corresponded to the quantities given to the patient nor to the clinical need. The patient herself pointed this out to me.

There are black sheep in any profession and there is no absolute scale by which a level of clinical investigation or treatment or a fee can always be judged to be reasonable or fair. Furthermore, there is the check and balance in that referring doctors will not refer and patients themselves will not return if they feel that clinical care is being treated merely as a financial commodity.

However, the private medical insurance companies could do more to police their own system. For example, why do they use the National Health Service as their appointee of accredited specialists? Are they frightened of upsetting vested interests by making their own judgements? Further, is it appropriate that this accreditation should automatically be for life rather than on audited performance of the work they do, costs they incur, and hospitals they use?

In all this the private sector could be a shining example to the NHS, rather than be overtaken by the excellent proposals for NHS reform introduced by the secretary of state.
Sincerely,
ROBERT LEFEVER,
2a Pelham Street, SW7.

From the Executive Director of BUPA Hospitals
Sir, On February 1 and 19 you referred to a BUPA hospital charging £168 for a "swab". The charge was actually for eight microbiological swabs, including pathological investigation and associated consultants' fees. The insurance company, Western Provident Association (WPA), was aware of this before your second report.

You also referred on February 19 to BUPA Hospital Leeds charging £982.96 for a 250 mg. injection of dobutamine and £580.84 to another patient. This is also incorrect. The larger figure quoted includes the lower and was for multiple injections given on separate occasions throughout one patient's stay in hospital.

This particular patient was in hospital for over nine weeks, almost half of which was spent in intensive care, following major cardiovascular surgery. He has made a successful recovery and his insurance company (WPA) has, after receiving a full explanation of our charges, agreed to meet his bill.

The bill for the elderly patient who underwent a cataract operation at BUPA Hartswood Hospital includes the cost for the lens implant itself and an expensive drug used prior to implant. The schedule of charges forwarded to such patients prior to admission clearly states that "special items such as lenses will be charged separately, as will any extra drugs and consumables required".

The charges made by BUPA hospitals are negotiated and agreed with the major private health insurance companies and reflect the fair cost of providing the treatment concerned in modern purpose-built hospitals. If patients have any queries about their bills, the hospital manager will always be pleased to deal with them.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN HODGKINSON,
Executive Director,
BUPA Hospitals,
Abbey View,
38/40 The Maltings,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire,
February 20.

Future of Europe

From Sir Reginald Hibbert
Sir, There is no difficulty in agreeing warmly in principle with Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams (February 19) that in present circumstances common sense dictates closer Anglo-French co-operation in the defence field. That has long been the case. The difficulty is to find practical ways of promoting it.

France tends to be readier with broad generalisations about co-operation than with the sort of specific proposals on which effective co-operation depends. Britain tends to insist on Nato as the only possible framework, which is unacceptable to France.

It is possible to see, in theory, the merits of an active European defence organisation which could form the front line in central Europe while the United States, linked with it through Nato, formed the second line.

It is just possible that France might be induced to play a full part and a forward role in such an organisation, and that Germany,

France and Britain might then be able jointly to provide the forces needed on the ground in the central and eastern parts of a reunited Germany in a manner which would be acceptable to Germany, would reassure Germany's eastern and southern neighbours and guarantee Germany's links with the West. But it is not easy to see how the leap to such dispositions might be made.

Something much more like an organisation with a command structure and less like a talking shop would need to be developed out of, or in place of, the Western European Union — perhaps requiring a new or revised Brussels Treaty. Such an organisation cannot be provided by the European Community. And it cannot be achieved without France. It would be a misfortune for this country if it were to be achieved one day without Britain.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Fronze,
Pensall,
Machynlleth, Powys.
February 20.

Channel tunnel traffic

From Mr Frank Selby
Sir, Eurotunnel's finance director tells us (February 20) that Bernard Levin's 12,000 daily (on average) passengers are less than a quarter of the number expected by his organisation in AD 2003. As Levin (February 19) speaks of £60, which is surely the return and not the one-way fare, I assume he means half the number each way.

The resulting 17.5 million people expected by Eurotunnel to cross the tunnel customs point every year — in and out added together — prompt four questions: How many of those are foreigners? How many more millions will cross our shores by air and water through the other exits and entrances?

How many of the 17.5 million will be bunched together in July and August?

Healthy food

From Mr Geoffrey Cannon
Sir, Mr Levin (February 15) seems to think that anybody who wants legislation on food with public health in mind is a puritan and a fanatic. This was the view of greedy Victorians who blocked legislation requiring closed sewers, saying that such reform was a tyranny and a threat to the rights of the people to drink filthy water.

One example. Manufacturers should be required by law to state clearly on labels how much sugar their packaged products contain. By this means customers will be able to make informed choices.

Loan voices

From Mr B. S. Smith
Sir, In both your reports (February 12 and 13) of Mr Alf Morris's Public Records 1958 (Amendment) Bill, designed to allow the Public Record Office to transfer to Australia one of the two original copies of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900, I note the use of the phrase "permanent loan or gift".

In everyday speech "indefinite"

Can I reserve a couple of seats now for my 2003 holiday? Sincerely yours,
FRANK SELBY,
47 Dove Park,
Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex.

From Professor W. H. R. Lumsden
Sir, Your report, "Cash crisis imminent at Channel tunnel" (Business & Finance, February 16), took me back to my schooldays when we were taught about the South Sea Bubble of 1720. I didn't remember the details of it, so I went to consult Trevelyan. He says that it was a "mania of speculation", an "era of stock-jobbing", and that the "Government itself was carried into the whirlpool".

Is the tunnel now to be our Channel Bubble, and if so, who will be our Robert Walpole? Yours faithfully,
W. H. RUSSELL LUMSDEN,
16 Merchiston Crescent,
Edinburgh 10.

Anybody who wishes to cut down, as recommended by the recent Department of Health report on sugars and health, will more readily be able to do so.

Scientists who speak in defence of sugar on industry platforms should not serve on official committees designed to shape national policy on sugar and health. The fact that they do so is against the public interest.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY CANNON
(Secretary),
Guild of Food Writers,
Glen House,
125 Old Brompton Road, SW7.
February 19.

or "long-term" loan conveys a less contradictory statement of intent than "permanent". I hope that Parliament will be unequivocal. Is it proposing to give a copy of the Act to the Australians? Or to lend it?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN S. SMITH (Secretary),
The Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts,
Quality House, Quality Court,
Canary Lane, WC2.
February 21.

Political attitudes and the BBC

From the Director of the Media Monitoring Unit
Sir, Replying to Woodrow Wyatt's letter (article, February 13) on political bias in the *Today* programme, BBC deputy director-general John Birt (article, February 19) accuses the Media Monitoring Unit of omitting "the inconvenient fact that, in the fortnight in question, Government ministers appeared on *Today* on 14 occasions". Yet the report specifically noted that many more Conservative than Labour spokesmen were interviewed — and interviewed challengingly at that, as is only right and proper.

The problem is that the BBC is bound to show "due impartiality" on politically controversial matters. This means that the politics of both Government and Opposition should be subjected to comparable scrutiny and challenge. This is not happening, and it would appear that the Labour Party is content for this situation to persist.

If Labour considers it to be its electoral advantage to keep its policies out of sight, surely "due impartiality" requires the BBC to shine its critical spotlight on the left as well as the right? It certainly requires that anti-Government pressure groups are not given unchallenged platforms, as has also been happening, whilst Government spokesmen are hounded and harried at every turn.

The BBC's response has completely ignored 10 of the 12 items highlighted by our report. How-

ever the programme's editor has conceded that "we do make mistakes" in the fortnight under review. *Today* made at least a dozen serious "mistakes". Over a full year this could result in over 300 "mistakes". Is this the sort of journalism John Birt wishes to encourage?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON CLARK, Director,
Media Monitoring Unit,
10 Harley Mow Passage, W4,
February 22.

From Mr H. R. D. Parsons
Sir, David Baxter's comments (February 20) on John Birt's article are at least as unconvincing as he says John Birt's article was. If, as a regular listener, he would claim that the interview of John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, at lunchtime on Sunday, February 18 (the day before the date of his letter) represented an easy ride then his prejudice is self-proven. By comparison it is Government spokesmen who are being treated with deference.

However, I agree with Mr Baxter that vigorous interviewing techniques should be employed. Politicians have for too long been allowed to dodge the question — and then express indignation if pressed further on their inadequate replies.

Where I differ from Mr Baxter is that I believe it should be applied to spokesmen of all parties — not all other parties, as he would wish. Yours faithfully,
H. R. D. PARSONS,
Flat 7, Stuart Court,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Rudolf Hess affair

From Mr Roy Davies
Sir, On January 17 the BBC-2 *Timewatch* documentary, "Hess: An Edge of Conspiracy", set out the case for believing that the 93-year-old man claiming to be Rudolf Hess who died in Spandau Prison in 1987 was indeed Rudolf Hess.

The suggestion has recently been made (report, February 17) that *Timewatch* and its presenter, Dr Christopher Andrew, were involved in "an organised manipulation of archive in Munich with an unnamed agency" (variously identified as the KGB, MI5 or Cambridge University) to discredit the theory that the real Hess was murdered in 1941. The suggestion stems from two versions of a crudely forged and ungrammatical letter bearing Dr Andrew's photocopied signature.

Sport on TV

From the Managing Director, Network Television, BBC
Sir, How many British viewers will be able to watch the major sporting events to which they have become accustomed? This is the issue behind the debate on the "listed events", such as the Wimbledon championships, the FA Cup Final, the Grand National, the Olympic Games and others ("BBC's rights of way being eroded", *Sport*, February 21).

The Broadcasting Bill opens the field to the highest bidder, irrespective of whether he is a national broadcaster or a satellite operator. BBC Television wants to ensure that all viewers keep their grandstand seat at these national events without having to pay for extra equipment.

Scouts and Guides

From Ms Veronica Rees
Sir, I read with a very smile Mr Adrian Room's letter (February 20) regarding the Guides' need to be more "outgoing" in the form of service to the community if they join the Scout movement.

His comments were generated by a previous letter (February 15) regarding activities, and mainly outdoor ones were mentioned. For his and other readers' information my own district has recently been involved in tree-clearing for the National Trust; planting 400 new trees for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers; Christ-

The key evidence which, for the first time, revealed the exact nature of Hess's wounds in the First World War was discovered by a West German professional historian of impeccable reputation, Dr Ulrich Lappenkiper. This evidence was not made available to Dr Andrew until some months after the Munich research had been completed so there can have been no "organised manipulation".

The documents found by Dr Lappenkiper are freely available in the Munich Archives and, once and for all, of the theory that the Hess who landed in Scotland was not the real Hess. Yours faithfully,
ROY DAVIES
(Editor, *Timewatch*),
BBC Elstree Centre,
Clarendon Road,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.
February 20.

We seek to remove the restriction whereby all terrestrial broadcasters have automatic access to these events. But we wish to retain the guarantee that the events are available to all viewers. Our proposals ensure everyone benefits, including the sporting bodies who will have two markets, the nation-wide market for terrestrial broadcasters and the market in the sky for satellite broadcasters.

Television's 10 most popular sporting events last year included five "listed events". Is it really sensible to deprive the national audience of joining in these national occasions? Yours faithfully,
PAUL FOX, Managing Director,
Network Television, BBC,
Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.
February 21.

mas entertainment for an old people's home; making Christmas cakes for the village old people; raising £100 for cancer research by carol singing; participating in the best-ket village competition by collecting litter; flower arranging for our local church.

This is just a brief example of the Guide service activities throughout the country. V. A. REES
(Riverhead District Commissioner, Kent West),
Carn Ingli, 10 The Beeches,
Sole Street,
Cobham, Kent.
February 21.

South Bank festivals

From the General Director (Arts) of the South Bank Centre
Sir, Paul Griffiths, writing about our plans for a South Bank resident orchestra (The Arts, February 14), claims that our programme concentrates on "single composer retrospectives" and suggests this is simply "programming by numbers".

In fact, when our festivals focus on one composer they have been carefully programmed, to include a range of music which illuminates the composer's own work.

Mr Griffiths rightly draws attention to the interesting possibilities which exist in reviving works of lesser-known composers. As it happens, our next major festival is devoted to Karol Szymanowski (March 3 to June 6), placing him in the context of his Eastern

European and other contemporaries.

Mr Griffiths also urges us to find alternative ways of presenting Bach and Beethoven, and mourns the neglect of Spohr. He must have forgotten our "Beethoven Plus" series, which included Spohr's work and that of his contemporaries, and our "Towards Bach" and recent Haydn series.

Far from clinging to the standard repertoire, however, the South Bank resident orchestra should be actively seeking out new repertoire, raising performing standards and, perhaps more importantly, encouraging concert-goers to try new areas too. Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS SNOWMAN,
General Director (Arts),
The South Bank Centre,
Royal Festival Hall, SE1.
February 19.

Out of season

From Mrs P. Jaques
Sir, The Army takes care to be properly dressed. The other day I spotted a soldier in combat gear, his tin hat decorated with green leaves. At this time of year I would expect bare twigs to be *de rigueur*, with the odd pussy willow or catkin for authenticity. Yours faithfully,
P. JACQUES,
25 Blacketts Wood Drive,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.
February 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

Theme holidays

From Mrs Anne Scott
Sir, Perusing as usual the holiday advertisements this time of year, my sensibilities are yet again shaken by references to my beloved Yorkshire as "Herriot Country" and to the North-east as "Cookson Country", but finally this morning to the continent of Australia as "Crocodile Dundee Country".

What may the description of this sceptred isle be? Yours faithfully,
A. SCOTT,
7 Homelands Road,
Sale, Cheshire.
February 21.

SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

THE ARTS

Scents and sensibility

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

A bad night on BBC 2 for people whose fur coats make them sweat. While *40 Minutes* considered the campaign against minks, a new series called *Small Objects of Desire* dealt with the history of the deodorant. The latter, it appears, all began with the Egyptians, who recommended mixing frankincense with porridge, rolling the mixture into a ball, and rubbing it into your arm pits.

The deodorant industry has moved on since, indeed, in this century, germ anxiety has become something of a class battle. Kim Flitcroft's fascinating ransack of old tele-commercialism showed an upper-crust determination to keep the workers washed and therefore servile, rather than dirty and rebellious. Despite a bizarre reliance on a Bristol Radio phone-in, this series (which promises to move on to the camera and the condom), has a quirky kind of fascination, especially perhaps for those in the business of being judiciously fragrant.

John Pitsman's investigation of the fur trade gave us such luminaries as Eartha Kitt, explaining that she always wore minks because they were forever — unlike men. The famous David Bailey commercial of bloodshed has probably done more than anything to kill fur sales in this country, but what Pitsman never explained was the influence of five consecutive warm winters on sales figures over here. In New York and Moscow you will still often see more minks than raincoats, for the simple reason that the temperature demands them.

On *This Week* (ITV), Mavis Nicholson had some chilling new statistics on Aids. Despite a multi-million pound advertising campaign there is now a projection of at least 1,000 heterosexual deaths in 1992, and in Edinburgh one in every 100 men under 44 is HIV positive. There does not seem to be a grading public awareness that this is no longer the "gay plague" that was originally and shamefully mis-diagnosed. On the other hand, 84 per cent of those polled by *This Week* reckoned they were not likely to change their sexual habits.

In Berlin, John Russell Taylor finds the art world keen to exploit opportunities and sign up talent from the East

Refreshing times

GALLERIES

Today, co-operation between East and West Berlin is not such a novelty in fine art as in other cultural fields, particularly if it is a question of traffic in a westerly direction. The tone of the shows put on by the Staatliche Kunsthalle has always been leftist, and it is not surprising to find major shows of East German artists like Willi Sitte mixed in with revolutionary art from other places.

Commercial western galleries such as Galerie Brusberg have been keeping a shrewd eye on recent political developments; Brusberg played an important role in securing the revelatory show *Kunstvergleich '88* — of 13 painters from the DDR — for the enormous Neues Kunstquartier im T.L.P. some 18 months ago. Moreover, just recently at the Martin-Gropius-Bau a large retrospective devoted to the DDR painter Bernhard Heisig was staged. It is now touring in West Germany with the blessing of the Zentrum für Kunstausstellungen der DDR.

Traffic in the opposite direction has always been more difficult, even if the artist concerned was as important as Schinkel: in Schinkel Year, East and West Berlin both had major tributes, but any sort of co-operation or co-ordination was unthinkable. But things have been moving behind the scenes: the Bauhaus-Archiv, for instance, has renewed links with its opposite number in Dessau, and they have exchanged exhibitions of their respective treasures.

It is likely, too, that much of its present exhibition, the most com-

prehensive show ever of Bauhaus-fotos 1919-33 (until April 22) will go on to the East. In East Berlin's Akademie-Galerie there is already a photographic show on the subject of the abortive 1918-19 Communist revolutions in Berlin, which has been organized by Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst in the West.

But the radical change in political climate is now producing still more dramatic happenings. The mind boggles at what even relatively sophisticated East Berliners will make of the giant retrospective of Rainer Fetting (the first anywhere, incidentally), organized by the Raab Galerie, which will go to the Eastern Nationalgalerie next month.

Not only is this the first ever showing of one of the major younger painters from West Germany in the East, but Fetting with the extraordinary scenes of sadomasochistic sex in New York clubs which he was painting a few years ago, would seem like a deliberate provocation to a public brought up in a puritanical Communist regime. About time too, West Berliners might say.

Certainly Fetting will come as a nasty shock after the Eastern Nationalgalerie's current show, perhaps the last of their safe ones for some time: a drab but exemplary examination of Assmus Jakob Carstens and Josef Anton Koch (until the end of the week), two German contemporaries of the French Revolution happily painting away at classical myths

and scenes from Dante and Ossian, and clearly under the spell of Flaxman's enormously influential line-engravings.

In the West, the Berlinische Galerie in the Martin-Gropius-Bau is more satisfactorily combining East and West with a show Ludwig Meesmer: *Apocalyptic Landscapes* (until April 6). He is of the most leftist of the major German Expressionists, at his best in the years around the First World War. In April, the Berlinische Galerie is planning to ship off to Leipzig some 140 paintings, and sculptures, and about 80 classic photographs from its permanent collection, for a loan exhibition which could not even have been imagined six months ago.

Meanwhile, Berlin has suddenly again become a focus of attention for art dealers and auctioneers elsewhere in the world: every day brings tales — no doubt exaggerated, but not excessively. There are dealers streaming through the wall to sign up new talent from the East; shows like *Zeitvergleich '88* indicate that there is a lot of talent, well able to bear comparison with the best of the West.

There are representatives from the major auction houses lining up to secure sections of the graffiti-covered Wall as they are dismantled, for sale as art-works in their own right. And there are humbler folk crowding round the Brandenburg Gate (West side, since there are no graffiti on the East) to buy souvenirs by the inch rather than the yard. The excitement is definitely there.



Fetting's "Man in Bathtub" and "Double Portrait"; his March show may shock East Berlin

Ring of truth for the telephone pests

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Sweet as a Nut

Warehouse, Croydon

Office life is all but virgin territory as a subject for drama, which is weird considering how much time so many of us spend protecting our square feet of territory in one. The five desks in Room 8154 in David Richard-Fox's excellent and observant comedy-drama-purgatory are the battlefields of that pernicious sub-class of salesmen, the telemarketers. The pests who dig out your name in the Directory and invite you to empty your wallet for little in return.

At the end of the author's programme entry comes the laconic statement, "Recent work includes telemarketing," so we can assume that the play's abrasive talk, the salesman's contempt for the client, and the two examples of



Eye to eye: Tony Callaghan (Trenayne) and Caroline Holdaway (May)

revenge on those who resist — frightful but funny — are authentic trophies of his time in this sordid jungle.

This is England and Richard-Fox is not trying to invade the hellish world of Mamet's *Glen-garry Glen Ross*. The focus of the first act is Gail, an out of work

actress looking for an office job while waiting for an audition.

Marsh, a slob who has loused up most of Haywards Heath, near Brighton, through incompetence, lays a bet with Sean, the telephone champ — the Reading territory against a tee-shirt — that he cannot sell Gail to her producer the way

he sells adverts to Home Counties executives.

Sean agrees and wins, or so it seems at the interval. In fact, it is hard to guess what the author has left for his second half, but the tortured love story that develops emerges credibly from the edgy hints he has planted.

Bardy Thomas's strong and convincing direction gets zippy performances from her male actors. All three are jokers: Colin, the manager (John Macneil), staring contemptuously at the world through burnt currant eyes, favours teasing; Sean (Tony O'Callaghan) is into heavy sarcasm, and Marsh, played by the author with his mouth full of gum, enjoys making believe he would really last five minutes in such a place.

Carol Starks' voice as Gail lacks the hard definition needed for her steely transfiguration, though she certainly looks the type, severe clothes and severe blonde hair. Worth a trip to East Croydon.

Squeaky clean

OPERA

John Higgins

The Mikado

London Coliseum

Once there was a famous black *Mikado*, but it would be difficult to imagine a whiter *Mikado* than that devised by Jonathan Miller for the Coliseum. It nestles deliciously in its Noel and Gertrude world of clipped vowels and cockneys, palm trees and bellhops. All is white as white can be and this whiteness has given the ENO a thoroughly bankable production.

And the theatre has treated it with respect. Here it is back for a score of performances with a most judicious mingling of familiar faces with new ones. From the original production of nearly four years ago are Eric Shilling's Pish-Tush (a vicar from Alan Bennett), Richard Angus's almost conversational Mikado and Richard Van Allan's Pooch-Bah doubling for Neville Chamberlain in his silk top and brimming with appeasement. And most especially there is Lesley Garrett as Yum-Yum, a genuine gold-digger of 1933; her voice now carries more weight and she comes close to singing everyone else off stage.

The Katisha and Ko-Ko partnership is new. After experimenting in the latter role with comedians whose singing was only moderate — or even less — the ENO have reverted to a singer,



Barry Banks and Lesley Garrett as Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum

Richard Stuart, who is a more than moderate actor. The gain is a considerable, especially when Sarah Walker, returning to the Coliseum after a long absence, is on stage. She had a rocky start at the end of Act I, but got into an easy, almost cabaret-like stride with "There is beauty in the bellow of the blast".

Barry Banks, the new Nanki-Poo, looks almost like a parody of Bonaventura Bottone parodying a diminutive D'Oyly Carte tenor. But the style is as clean as the voice. Elizabeth McCormack, in her house debut, was a notably lively and attractive Pish-Sing.

Justin Brown, another house debut, had a rough time with the overture and began by rushing his singers. Then he settled down and realized that this was an ensemble performance with some of the best contributions coming from the corps of chambermaids squeaking with excitement and the bellhops, who would probably squeak too if pressed.

Through Asian eyes

Benedict Nightingale

Tartuffe

Gardner Centre

Tartuffe is the play that definitively made Molière a non-person, at least to the conventionally pious. He was anathematized, threatened with death, and eventually refused the honourable burial he should have received; and all for attacking religious hypocrisy and extremism.

Three centuries later, the play does not seem so obsolete nor, sad to say, its author's hounding so archaic. Undeniably, there is a certain frisson in seeing it performed in Brighton by the all-Asian touring company that Jatinder Verma has assembled for the National Theatre; the more so given his robust reworking of the original. This is *Tartuffe* as he imagines it presented by a suspect Hindu poet to a bigoted Muslim emperor in 17th-century India.

Mark you, that frame is mostly as irrelevant to the canvas as the Christopher Sly induction to *The Taming of the Shrew*. Verma's aim is less to bait any passing fundamentalists than to introduce Eastern references and acting techniques into a French classic: the more exuberantly, the better.

We still see a besotted Orgon sacrifice daughter, son, daughter's lover and house to the fraudulent zealot Tartuffe. But his objection to the lover is that he visits "palaces of dancing girls". The daughter, called Mumtaz, instead of Mariane, threatens to live

in holy isolation by the Ganges. Tartuffe is a "faking fakir" who claims to resemble Buddha, wears saffron, and launches into seduction, crying "Let me be your guru."

And so the story continues, to the sound of the sitar, beneath an elegant net tent, and imbued with physical invention galore. There is whirling and somersaulting, leaping and diving, and dancing sprightly, grave and even martial. It is all gorgeously colourful and buoyantly performed by a cast led by Nizwar Karanj as a drooped, mincing Tartuffe.

Perhaps it becomes too much fun. When Tartuffe is gleefully warned not to "wet your dhoti", one wonders if the jokes are getting too silly, the satire too lost. But Verma's adaptation-cum-production pulls a suggestive surprise towards the end, when Orgon is evicted by the triumphant Tartuffe. At that point Molière introduced a *deus ex machina* in the person of an emissary from the all-seeing Sun King, and the impostor is arrested.

But Verma's cast simply stops, as perhaps Molière stopped in his first and most offensive version. The Emperor Aurangzeb — a dismally real historical personage — seems — complains indignantly at the insult this implies to divine and earthly justice, to Islam and himself. The actors then improvise their flattering denouement; and the moral is obvious. There are those in power, Muslims among them, who prefer pious distortions to difficult truths. That was so back in 1667, maybe it is so now too.

A first for Before the End

CONCERT

Paul Griffiths

YMSO/Blair

Festival Hall

refers to the fact that the music stops before it is over (which is better than carrying on after it is finished), and indeed the 15 minutes of the piece's duration seem to contain two cycles of generation which could be repeated indefinitely, each one start-

ing slowly and gathering speed under the instigation principally of the horns.

There is also an allusion to the evening hymn *Te lucis ante terminum*, whose plainsong melodies apparently provide the basic material; though if that suggests the influence of Peter Maxwell Davies, the melodic-harmonic feel of the piece was closer to Britten, to the extent that the music exerted its personality at all. For this was a curiously reticent effort, hardly sounding like a prizewinner. The injections of power from the horns were efficient but

characterless, and the solo writing tended to be apologetic and feature subdued colours: cor anglais, bass clarinet, viola. One hopes the composer will now gain the encouragement to knock the world a bit harder.

The rest of the programme consisted of the *Symphonie fantastique* and Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations*, with Andrew Schuman a thoughtful and judicious cello soloist. Not everything quite came off, but Schuman drew a great deal of daring elegance and varied tonal beauty out of the piece.

9 OSCAR NOMINATIONS

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Weighing up the worth of a pop idol

In the rock world, does success equal riches or respect? Steve Turner looks at the industry's top earners

Which is the biggest rock act in the world? It depends on whether the biggest means greatest, and whether greatest should be decided by the public or the critics. It can also depend on whether the biggest means concert seats filled or albums sold. Above all it depends on whether you are talking about now, or way back in 1988.

The Beatles were unquestionably both the biggest and the greatest during the Sixties, as Elvis Presley had been in the Fifties. But since then, in a market fragmented by age, race and musical genre, the title has been continually disputed.

During the early Seventies the Rolling Stones, in the spirit of Mohammed Ali, had themselves loudly announced in concert as "the greatest rock and roll band in the world". A few years later The Who were known as the "greatest live band in the world". In 1984 *Rolling Stone* magazine felt it safe to describe The Police as "rock and roll's best-loved active band". So it goes on.

Today it is U2 or Bon Jovi that you will hear routinely described as the "biggest rock band in the world", with details of record-breaking tours and octo-platinum discs to justify the claim. But then someone may remind you that Michael Jackson, while only producing two albums over the past eight years, is still "the greatest performer of our age", or that Bruce Springsteen still deserves to be called The Boss.

Certainly if bank balance has



Bon Jovi: labelled the "biggest rock band in the world"

Tracey Chapman: wooing music critics, but not the public

Michael Jackson: earnings of \$125 million in two years

anything to do with the size of an act, Michael Jackson walks off with the title. *Forbes* magazine, which lists 19 musicians among the world's 40 highest-paid entertainers, estimates that he has earned \$125 million over the past two years, compared with Pink Floyd's \$36 million, George Michael's \$47 million and Madonna's paltry \$43 million.

Yet by the time an act is so conspicuously solvent, the rock-critic fraternity usually has its eyes trained elsewhere. Mass public acceptance and critical elevation rarely coincide. Thus, at a time when U2 was cleaning up the *Rolling Stone* reader's poll (Feb-

ruary 1989), the magazine's music critics were voting for Tracey Chapman and Midnight Oil.

John Peel's *Festive Fifty*, the Radio 1 disc jockey's choice of top singles from 1989, typically did not have a mega-star in it. The top 10 was dominated by the current favourites of the weekly music press: the Sundays, the Wedding Present, Happy Mondays, Inspiral Carpets and the Stone Roses.

To be fair, U2 have done remarkably well in charming the reviewers while shifting 14 million copies of *The Joshua Tree* and nine million of *Rattle and Hum*. Prince too, whose *Sign o' the Times* was voted the best album

ever by *Time Out* critics, has maintained a high degree of critical respect while vying with Michael Jackson and Madonna as the biggest solo artist in the world.

Being a big live act does not inevitably lead to big album sales. Last year the Grateful Dead pulled in \$26.1 million on the road, putting them directly behind Bon Jovi in *Performance* magazine's ranking of top earning tours. But they are certainly no chart threat to Bon Jovi.

The Rolling Stones, whose \$80 million *Steel Wheels* tour of North America was the biggest grossing of 1989 (The Who were second with \$34 million), have always

been more successful as a concert attraction than as record sellers. *Steel Wheels* did respectable business in America (it made number one in the *Billboard* chart), but has so far only managed sales of 165,000 in Britain. Bands like Metallica and REM, whose tours also made the top 10 alongside those of Neil Diamond, Rod Stewart and Barry Manilow, remain virtually unknown to the wider public.

There is no shortage of acts claiming to be the biggest in the album-selling market. They may not have sold the most copies of a single album — Michael Jackson's 40 million sales of *Thriller* (1982)

are hard to beat — but they may be the first band to sell over eight million copies of two consecutive albums (Def Leppard) or have the best-selling British album of the Eighties (Dire Straits with *Brothers In Arms*).

Whitney Houston, who sold 14 million copies of her debut album, is the best selling female album artist. Bon Jovi had the best selling music video with *Slippery When Wet* (500,000 copies) and Bobby Brown's *Don't Be Cruel* sold the most copies of any album in America last year.

Yet even large album sales do not automatically confer greatness. Sheffield's Def Leppard have

sold 13 million copies of *Hysteria* but they are hardly in the "living legend" class and, according to Tony Hollingsworth (whose company Tribute Productions produces rock music TV specials for the international market), they would not be big enough to make his industry's "A" list.

Hollingsworth works on the basis that there are only 25 "A" artists in the world. Most have already been mentioned here, but the list would also include Phil Collins, Tina Turner, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney.

His pick for the biggest act in the world today is Michael Jackson. "He's got a broader market than Bon Jovi and U2 because he goes right down to the children. Also he sells both to white and black kids. That's very important. U2 don't sell to black kids."

How does he define an "A" artist? "It must be someone who can sell a music television programme each year in their own right," he says. "You could, for example, have the Rolling Stones in an international television production each year. But there are very few acts who can do it."

"Television gobbles things far more quickly than any other medium," he says. "You can keep selling Elton John and Dire Straits, but you could probably only sell one special on Lou Reed or Peter Gabriel every three or four years."

ALBUMS

David Sinclair

The House Of Love: Fontana (Fontana 842 283-1)

Of the current wave of indie bands breaking through to mainstream success, none has promised more and few have promised it for longer than The House Of Love.

Since their 1987 success single, "Shine On", the band, led by singer and songwriter Guy Chadwick, has maintained a disorganised front. Surprisingly, perhaps, all has come right, and with a re-recorded version of "Shine On" not long departed from the Top 20, their second album *Fontana* at last emerges.

It is a low-key cracker that amply showcases Chadwick's abilities as a singer and songwriter with an alert, modern bent, but tempered by a mild fixation on the *Beggar's Banquet* era.

"Hedonist" is the most obvious musical reference to the truculent Stones swagger, its clouded lyric partly a celebration of anti-social self-reliance. There is even a song called "Beats and the Stones" recalling old playground rivalries.

The chorus of "Shine On" still induces an involuntary shiver of delight, harnessing gentle melodies to rhythm tracks of deceptive force. Chadwick's triumph is to have produced such swirling, dreamy songs that combine outstanding textural beauty with a firmly directed contemporary rock 'n' roll touch.

Midnight Oil: Blue Sky Mining (CBS 485553 1)

Those socially conscious Aussies who brought us last year's estimable "Beds are Burning" single return with another collection of peerless rock song structures, catchy choruses and lyrical clenched fist salutes.

Midnight Oil seem to work scrupulously on every song to avoid the familiar chord change and the obvious, lazy riff. Moreover they come up with consistently powerful melodies bolstered by neat arrangements.

The unremitting earnest tone of the words gets a bit wearing, but Peter Garrett's hard, cocky voice and heroically sneering enunciation is never less than riveting.

The Fall: Extricate (Cog-Sinister 842 204-2)

Mark Smith remains an engaging and frequently infuriating enigma, his music a surreal, grimly cynical concoction performed with an innocent, child-like incompetence. Although his singing is now more composed than it used to be, Smith's wobbly off-key crooning on a slow ballad entitled "Bill is Dead" is surely a grotesque parody.

The Fall's sound is tidier than on previous outings, but still jerks and fizzles unpredictably, with Steven Hanley's approximately-matched bass buzzing away throughout "Telephone Thing" like a distant foghorn and Marcia Schofield's keyboards often sounding like a fairground.

Yet Smith plainly puts a great deal of thought into his music and has the knack of rendering the most bizarre raw material into an overall shape that is both serious and absorbing. In this regard *Extricate* is well up to the mark of his previous idiosyncratic work.

Runaround rascal

Peter Guttridge talks to Fifties' hero Dion DiMucci about his acts and attitudes

It all comes down to an attitude. On Arthur Avenue in the Bronx, late Fifties, Dion DiMucci was all attitude. A graduate of Fordham University, the street gang, decked out in shark-skin pants, winkle-pickers and greased pompadour, he was a neighbourhood kid made good through rock 'n' roll.

Between 1958 and 1963 the hits kept coming, from the pimply teen angst of "Teenager in Love", via "Remember Sam" to the street and swaggar of "The Wanderer".

"Well, in my neighbourhood, you always had to be cool — 'Yo! The kid is here' kind of stuff," he says. "And that came out in the music."

His young years read like a script from a Hollywood musical — *West Side Story* through to *Grease*. A steady girlfriend from the age of 11 (the Sue who ran around), rumbles between rival gangs, Dion and his friends singing a cappella together on rooftops and in schoolyards. "Although the Sixth Avenue downtown D-train had the greatest bass sound in the world," Dion notes.

But Dion's own life in West Side Story and more. He was a heroin user from the age of 14. "At that time — I'm talking about those tender years 13 to 14 — a lot of my friends were dying around me. Zip guns, drugs, car crashes, switchblade fights. I didn't know how to handle that."

His musical successes didn't help with the drug problem. He had been hooked on music since he was 10, when he first heard Hank Williams play country and west-

ern. "My music got me through a lot, but when I got those hit records, the gap became even wider and drugs filled a lot of that gap for me."

The Beatles stopped the hits, then Dylan came along. DiMucci took to acoustic guitar and solo performances. But the Sixties for him were a nightmare of alcohol and drug dependence.

An unexpected 1968 hit *Abram Martin and John*, and a religious conversion on a jogging track, prompted the move to Miami — the Bronx with palm trees for native New Yorkers — which saved his life.

Helped by his father-in-law, he gave up drink and drugs, settled down with his wife and raised three daughters. Over the years since then, he lived off royalty cheques and released the odd gospel album. He still works a lot with the local Drug Unit, "with guys reconstructing their lives."

Now he has started to put his career back together. In 1987, aged 48, he made his comeback in a concert at Radio City in New York with a little help from backing singers Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, Lou Reed and Billy Joel. Last year, he released

Yo Frankie, a "secular" album of Springsteen/Huey Lewis influenced rock 'n' roll with a couple of outstanding tracks (the title track and "King of the New York Streets").

New Dion, these days preferring aviator glasses and a sloosh hat to shark-skins and winkle-pickers, is in Britain for three concerts which form part of a tour with Dave Edmunds' Rock 'n' Roll Spectacular. At 50, he looks back on his life with an eye for the good story. He recalls touring with other big rock 'n' roll names at the height of his fame. "At 19, I was hurried on to a tour bus with a gun-toting Buddy Holly from Lubbock, Texas, Chicanos Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper. I'd never been out of my neighbourhood," Dion says, recalling the culture shock. There was more of a shock when his new buddies were killed in a plane crash. Dion had gone by bus.

He is a fan of rock 'n' roll revival shows, if they are done properly. "Since rock 'n' roll has come into its own, there's this phenomenon called nostalgia but to me anything good is forever." He has never subscribed to the view that old rock 'n' rollers should move into velvet suits and lounge acts in Las Vegas.

"Elvis lost his way; the Las Vegas thing squashed him. He should have gone to Woodstock or sung with the Rolling Stones."

The Dave Edmunds Rock 'n' Roll Spectacular, with Dion DiMucci, reaches Town & Country Club, Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-284 0303) on Monday, 7pm, £9.50



Dion DiMucci: aviator glasses and sloosh hat replace his Fifties garb

Busting the barricades of two divided cities

Andy White has been wowing East Berlin's Festival of Political Song. Rose Rouse met the Belfast songwriter



Andy White: he writes "modern Belfast songs for everyone" in an attempt to break down political barriers

wistful, others like "Groovy Kind of Way" are poppy and infectious, while old songs like "Reality Row" are pure Bob Dylan.

Tall and skinny with a head of unkempt curly hair, White first came to my notice on the now

defunct rock programme *Whistle Test* when he sang "Religious Persuasion", an angry song about sectarianism in Northern Ireland, in a raw but consuming manner while perched on the top of a building in Belfast.

"It's funny," he says. "I've never been to a gig where someone didn't see that programme." Since then, he's recorded three albums, toured America, lived in London and moved back to Belfast. "An Irish journalist renamed the first

album Paddy Grows Up, the second one Paddy Goes Away and the third one Paddy Comes Home," he laughs. His third album, *Himself*, is just released ("the title is meant to be funny, like when someone comes into the room and you say 'Ah, it's himself'").

Ex-Cambridge graduate and researcher for *Wogan*, White started off with the Bragg philosophy of doing it on his own. However, he soon discovered he preferred playing with a band. They are all from Northern Ireland, which White regards as important. "We're the only group that have done everything in Northern Ireland," he says. "Dublin has all the structures for bands, like rehearsal studios. It's much harder in Belfast."

White has written songs — including "20 Years on Himself" about the continuing violence in Northern Ireland. "We write modern Belfast songs for everyone," he says, "but our perspective is straight down the middle. We're not polarizing people, we're not putting up more barriers."

Being at the East Berlin festival served to reinforce White's views that there are parallels to be drawn between East Germany and Northern Ireland.

Andy White and the Class Men play at the *Mean Fiddler*, High St, Harlesden, London NW10 (01-961 5490) on March 10, and the *Powerhaus*, Liverpool Rd, London N1 (01-837 3218) tomorrow, 7.30.

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Sinclair, David Toop and Rose Rouse

THE PALE SAINTS: Leeds trio in the forefront of the new wave of indie bands. Their debut album *The Comforts of Madness* is a melancholy affair which betrays such impeccably hip influences as My Bloody Valentine, Spacemen 3 and the Jesus And Mary Chain. King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, 272 St Vincent Street, Glasgow (041 221 5279) tonight, 9pm, £4. Dance Factory, Ward Road, Dundee (0382 26836) Sunday, 10.30pm, £3. Riverside, 57-59 Melbourne Street, Newcastle (091 261 4386) Monday, 7.30pm, £3.

THE CREATURES: Out of the Banshees comes Skourie, the loopy Joe Queen, and Buglie, her faithful Tin Man, on extra-curricular manoeuvres to promote the beguiling *Scouring album* and latest single "Fury Eyes". Queen Margaret Union, 22 University Gardens, Glasgow (041 339 9784) tonight, 8pm, £5. University of Salford, University House, The Crescent (01745 5000) Saturday, 8pm, £5. University of East Anglia, The Plain, Norwich (0603 505401) Sunday, 7.30pm, £6.50.

YARCO: When they first appeared, Manchester's bluesy Yarco seemed to be the urban sound of the moment. Their album, *Communicate*, proved to be an anti-climax, however, so there is potential to live up to. Support act M C Buzz B is perhaps the most promising rapper in Britain; his last single "How sleep the Brave" daringly used Dave Brubeck's "Track Five". University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1 (01-323 5481), tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

STELLA CHIWESHE: According to Zimbabwe's musical conventions, the Mbira or thumb piano has always been a male instrument. Stella Chiweshe, who began playing the instrument in 1966, has changed that with her inspired mix of traditions and new ideas. She first came to Britain supporting Thomas Mepoko; now her fame is growing in world-music circles. Africa Centre, King Street, WC2 (01-638 1973), tonight, 9pm, £5.

ANCIENT BEATBOX: The post modernists of roots music, these are musicians whose purpose is defined by their name. Hurdy gurdy, folk fiddle, drum machine and ominous keyboards, all co-exist in an impressively realized global sci-fi medievalism. Subterania, Acklam Road, W10 (01-960 4590), Monday, 8pm, £5.

THE SUNDAYS: Queen of the indie bands, the Sundays are at the height of cult popularity at present. Skilled popicians, they use their guitars and lyrics to soothing, subtle effect. They have recently released an album called *Heading Wharf*. Town & Country, Highgate Road, NW5 (01-284-1221) today, 7pm £7

DINNER LADIES: Sensitive urban folk group who play neo-folk tunes on two stick instruments including the cello. If you are feeling in the mood for melody with a social conscience, this is the band for you. Ween Fiddler, 24-28a High Street, Harlesden, NW10 (01-961 5490) tomorrow, 8.30pm, £5.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS: Five piece, all-female band, who believed in powerful playing rather than girly releases. Dubbed the Bangles With Guts, they attract men followers plus girlfriends. John Bull, 590 Chiswick High Road, London W4 (01-994 0082) tomorrow, 8.30pm, £3.

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WEEKEND INFORMATION SERVICE

Prayers for a grocer



In rehearsal: Marsha Miller and Stephan Kalipha play the comic twosome in Jimi Rand's *Say Halalujah*

Ten years ago a small number of theatre companies in this country were organised by blacks for black actors. A great deal of progress has been made since then, largely due to the inspiration and work of Anton Phillips, Jamaica-born, trained in theatre in New York and England, and founder of Carib Productions in 1979. This was the company that recently put on James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner* at the Tricycle and took it to the West End. In 1983 he set up the first Black Theatre Society at the Arts Theatre, initially a bi-racial effort but now an annual festival of the London theatre season based Riverside Studios. This year's season opens with Jimi Rand's *Say*

Halalujah, a comedy set in the house of an easy-going West Indian grocer, played by Stephan Kalipha, whose wife wants to hold a prayer meeting in their livingroom. The director is Malcolm Frederick, the Artistic Director of Black Theatre Co-Operative. On April 2, Abby James of Tenba Theatre directs *Essex* by the New York writer Steve Carter; and on April 23 the Artistic Director of Talawa Theatre, Yvonne Brewster, directs Maria Oshedi's *Blood Sweat and Fear*. See *Halalujah* Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (01-745 3354). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm, opens February 24, 7.30pm, then Monday to Saturday 7.30pm, £4.50, Jeremy Alington

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

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FILMS

Also on national release
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BLACK RAIN (18) Crime story directed by Ridley Scott about a homicide New York cop (Michael Douglas) pursuing a Japanese gangster through Osaka (195 mins). Cannon Films Road (01-935 5772). Progs 1.10, 3.30, 6.10, 8.45, 11.15. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

CANNON FULLER ROAD (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00.

EMPIRE (01-240 7200). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Whiteley (01-792 3303). Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45.

TURNER AND HOOD (PG) Predictable cop-and-dog antics given some charm by Tom Hanks as the police investigator (90 mins). Cannon Films Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00.

WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (18) Engaging romantic comedy, with Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan as professional Manhattanites who gradually fall for each other. Written by Nora Ephron, directed by Rob Reiner (95 mins). Cannon Cheshire (01-362 5096). Progs 1.40, 4.20, 7.20, 9.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

ODON KENNELING (01-302 6644). Progs 1.30, 3.55, 6.25, 8.55. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

ODON SWINE COTTAGE (01-722 5905). Progs 1.30, 3.40, 6.10, 8.30.

SCREEN ON WATER STREET (01-935 2772). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.00, 11.00. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

WHITELAYS (01-792 3303). Progs 3.45, 6.15, 8.45.

WARRIOR WEST END (01-439 0791). Progs 1.55, 4.05, 6.20, 8.35. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

THEATRE

LONDON

ANOTHER TIME Albert Finney and Janet Suzman in fuzzy play about South African whites and a genius pianist. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-857 1119). Tue, 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4pm, Wed 3pm and Sat 4pm, 25-26.

CONTEMPORARY NOIR Triple-bill made up of a 14th-century Noh play, a Kyogen comic farcude and a modernist collage drawn from *Waiting for Godot* and other pieces, with the author's consent. Theatre Museum, Russell Street, W1 (01-836 2330). Tue, 8pm. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4pm, Wed 3pm and Sat 4pm, 25-26.

MY HEART'S A SUITCASE Frances Barber in Clare McIntyre's new play to sort her life out on a Brighton beach. Royal Court Theatre, St Martin's Lane, SW1 (01-760 1745). Tue, 8pm. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 4pm, Wed 3pm and Sat 4pm, 25-26.

JESUS OF MONTREAL (18) An updated version of a 19th-century play, set in a Quebec town, with a modernist, strained aesthetic fireworks from Denis Armand, Canadian director of *The Death of the American Empire* (120 mins). Lumiere (01-436 0691). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

CANDID PIAZZA (01-486 2443). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.05, 8.40.

PARENTHOOD (12) Episodic heart-warmer from Ron Howard about the joys and sorrows of raising children. Features a large, excellent cast (Steve Martin, Jason Statham, Dianne Wiest, Mary McCormack) (114 mins). Cannon Fuller Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.10, 8.00, 11.00.

CANNON OXFORD (01-370 2636). Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.15. Late Fri, Sat 11.20.

PIZZA (01-437 1234). Progs 12.15, 3.00, 5.45, 8.30. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

WHITELAYS (01-792 3303). Progs 1.05, 3.35, 6.05, 8.20.

SEA OF LOVE (18) Superior thriller, crackling with electricity. Al Pacino stars as a New York cop who becomes emotionally involved with a murder suspect (Ethan Phillips). Directed by Harold Becker (112 mins). Cannon Baker Street (01-435 9772). Progs 2.25, 5.40, 8.20. Late Fri, Sat 11.00.

CANNON FULLER ROAD (01-370 2636). Progs 2.20, 5.00, 8.00.

CANNON OXFORD (01-370 2636). Progs 12.35, 3.10, 5.45, 8.20.

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (01-226 3620). Progs 3.30, 6.20, 8.50. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

WHITELAYS (01-792 3303). Progs 1.05, 3.35, 6.05, 8.25.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS (PG) Dazzling but handsome version of Robert Haring's play about the camaraderie of Southern women, gathered together in a beauty parlour. With Sally Field, Dolly Parton and Shirley MacLaine. Directed by Herbert Ross (117 mins). Odeon Haymarket (01-435 9772). Progs 12.10, 2.55, 5.40, 8.25.

ODON KENNELING (01-302 6644). Progs 12.35, 3.15, 6.00, 8.40.

CANNON CHESHIRE (01-362 5096). Progs 1.40, 4.15, 6.55, 9.25.

WHITELAYS (01-792 3303). Progs 1.35, 4.15, 7.05, 9.35.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE (18) Warm-hearted film with the popular touch; Pauline Collins repeats her stage role as the Liverpool housewife rediscovering romance (108 mins). Cannon Fuller Road (01-370 2636). Progs 2.10, 5.10, 8.20.

CONCERTS

TODAY

CITY COLOURS The RCM 20th Century Ensemble is conducted by Edwin Rutherford in Messiaen's *Colour by the Arts* Concert. Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 (01-589 3643). 7pm, free.

CANDID, ANDREAS Andrew Litton conducts the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* Overture, Symphony No 2 'The Age of Anxiety' and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 5. Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 (01-589 3643). 7.30pm, 25-26 (D).

KERSTENS CONCERT The Kerstens Ensemble with Tom Kerstens (guitar) performs Nielsen's *Extrapolations*, Nielsen's *Very Many*, Frederic's *Sonnetto Erotico*, Fauré's *Suite de Chansons Populaires Espagnoles*, Stravinsky's *Russian Song*, Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto*, and Nielsen's *Piano Sonata Op 58* and Tchaikovsky's 12-movement *The Seasons*.

CONCERTS

TODAY

WIGMORE HALL, 56 WIGMORE STREET, LONDON W1 (01-935 2141), 7.30pm, 25-26 (D).

WESTER MUSIC The RPO is conducted by Jorge Mester in Schubert's Symphony No 5, Elgar's *Cello Concerto* (soloist, Paul Tortelier) and Respighi's *Festive of Rome*. Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 (01-589 3643). 7.45-8.30pm, 25-26.

ERICKA, EMERSON Roger Norrington conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's *Emperor* (Bernard Roberts, soloist) and Symphony No 3 'Eroica'. Town Hall, Birmingham (021 236 8869). 7pm, 25-26 (D).

WESTHOLM The BBC SO is conducted by Andrew Davis in Nielsen's Symphony No 4 'The Inextinguishable'. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-436 8891). 7.45-8.40pm, 23-24 (D).

LYNAPPA/CHOPIN Maura Lynappi (piano) and Andrzej Chojnacki (piano) play Chopin's *Préludes Op 28*, *Etudes*, *Nocturnes* and *Scherzo No 3*. Wigmore Hall, 56 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). 4pm, 25-26.

IT'S RAINING The excellent Opus 20 string ensemble play the world premiere of Bennett Hogg's *It's Raining* and Dominic Muldowney's *Hymns to Agape*, adding Ruggie's *memorable* *Partita* and Stravinsky's *Apollon Musagète*. Percussion Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800). 6pm, 23-24.

CONCERTS

TOMORROW

ERICKA, EMERSON Roger Norrington conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's *Emperor* (Bernard Roberts, soloist) and Symphony No 3 'Eroica'. Town Hall, Birmingham (021 236 8869). 7pm, 25-26 (D).

WESTHOLM The BBC SO is conducted by Andrew Davis in Nielsen's Symphony No 4 'The Inextinguishable'. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-436 8891). 7.45-8.40pm, 23-24 (D).

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CONCERTS

ROCK

TODAY

THE CRAMPS High-kitsch psychobilly warriors led by the deranged Dutch of Lou Interior and Polson Ivy Rorschach. Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2110

ACROSS

8 Swaggar (7)

9 Yellow-orange (5)

10 Poesies (3)

11 Solar distance unit (5,4)

12 Venustus (6,2,5)

14 Highbrow (7)

17 Skipper (7)

19 Stand-offish (5)

22 Equipped (9)

24 Speck (3)

25 Florid arch style (5)

26 Copy (7)

DOWN

1 Overseas (6)

2 Demeanor (6)

3 Single stone catapult (6)

4 Insouciantly (6,2,5)

5 Back (4)

6 Dodge, trick (6)

7 Deceased (6)

8 Turkish commander (3)

15 Magnificence (8)

16 Furs (3)

17 Burial box (6)

18 Begister (4)

20 Trial (6)

21 Dead (4)

23 Yearning (4)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 20

CONTRAPPOSTO

(c) A pose in figure sculpture which shows the human body twisted, so that the torso faces a different direction to the limbs. e.g. Verrocchio's David, developed from classical Greek sculpture.

EXEQUIES (a) Greek potter and famous painter of the 6th century BC, his masterpieces is an amphora now in the Vatican showing Achilles and Ajax.

DDI (a) Otto Dix (1891-1969) German graphic artist known for his paintings and etchings of protest about the First World War, and exposing the corruption of post-war Germany. He was persecuted by the Nazis.

MASIP (a) Juan Vicente Masip (c. 1490-1550) a Spanish painter of the 16th century, painting in the style of Raphael. His son, a pupil of the same name studied Raphael, and painted religious pictures in a dramatic Mannerist style.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is taken from the game Spassov (White) Kizma (Black), Zrnovci 1965. White to play and win. Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1...Rb2+ 2.Rd2 Qd1 winning the white queen.

Also full marks for the alternative win by 1...Qa2+ 2.Kh3 Rh4+ 3.Kxh4 Qh5 mate or 3.gxh4 Qh5 mate.

SOLUTION TO NO 2109

ACROSS: 1 Sphinx 4 Editor 9 Run-down 10 Elliot 11 Tilt 12 Whistler 14 Highland Games 17 Diagonal 19 Ant 21 Valve 22 Lowered 23 Dextst 24 Jester

DOWN: 1 Stretch 2 Hunting 3 Noon 5 Dressage 6 Tilt 7 Rotor 8 Unthinkable 13 Bloomers 15 Minaret 16 Speed up 17 David 18 Arles 20 Swan

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

ALBERT HALL 1111 01-857 1111. Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 1506/1511. Sunday from 3.00. Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

ROYAL BALLET 1506/1511. Sunday from 3.00. Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

BLOOD BROTHERS

STANISLAVSKY 1506/1511. Sunday from 3.00. Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

THE CHERRY ORCHARD

STANISLAVSKY 1506/1511. Sunday from 3.00. Progs 1.15, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

Hostage release urged in Tehran

By Hahir Teimourian and Michael Knipe in London and Martin Fletcher in Washington

An Iranian newspaper close to President Rafsanjani yesterday called for the unconditional release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, prompting cautious optimism in London and Washington.

The English language *Tehran Times* said in an editorial carried by the Iranian News Agency that the Western hostages, of whom there are thought to be 18, had become "a tool of propaganda in the hands of Western imperialism against Islam".

The Foreign Office welcomed the views in the editorial and expressed the hope that they would come to fruition.

While the implications of the editorial were being carefully assessed, Whitehall sources cautioned against too much optimism given previous disappointments over the expected release of the hostages.

It is hoped that Sweden, which handles British interests in Tehran, may be able to throw some light on the true significance of the article. It was published after last week's visits to Tehran by most leaders of Lebanon's militant Shias, thought to be holding the hostages. The Lebanese Shia leaders include Sheikh Mohammad Fadhlallah, the overall spiritual leader of the Hezbollah in south Beirut.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, said yesterday of the *Tehran Times* statement: "This is hopeful news. It is encouraging that the release of hostages is being commended in such a direct way in Iran." His special envoy, Mr Terry Waite, is one of the hostages.

The article was seen by some political analysts as an indication of a growing sense of vulnerability in Iran because of the changes in Eastern Europe which were seen to be lessening the disquisitions between the superpowers.

Its publication follows a pessimistic assessment by President Rafsanjani in which he said the changes in Eastern Europe could be to Iran's detriment.

"Confrontations are turning into understandings which, in general, would give more leeway to those who are hostile to us," he said.

In Washington, State Department officials noted that unlike many previous Iranian suggestions that the hostages should be released, this one appeared to attach no conditions, such as the payment of money, the unfreezing of outstanding assets or the ending of hostile US policies against Iran.

Horsewoman gallops to make a point



Constance Scarfield, astride Patrick, galloping at Epsom yesterday after her conviction for speeding on her horse.

A woman who was found guilty of speeding on her horse as she rode through Richmond Park in south-west London went to Epsom yesterday to attempt to match the turn of speed for which she had been fined £50 (Ruth Gladhill writes).

Constance Scarfield, aged 42, was fined by Richmond magistrates for riding Patrick, her horse, "at a pace greater than a hand canter" after Police Constable David Wilson, of the Royal Parks Police, had said that when the horse was being ridden at a full gallop uphill his motorcycle speedometer was showing 30mph.

Scarfield, supported by other riders

who use Richmond Park regularly, accused the police of officiousness and sneaky tactics in enforcing the regulations. She says she intends to appeal.

Other riders also criticised the Royal Parks police yesterday and accused them of officiousness and sneakiness in carrying out the law to the very letter.

Park regulations forbid horses being ridden at any speed greater than a hand canter, which is faster than a trot but slower than an extended canter and a gallop.

PC Wilson told the court on Wednesday that he saw Patrick being ridden "at full gallop" and described

the speed as "a pace used when going past the winning post in a horse race". Scarfield, who lives in Chelsea but comes from Toronto, Canada, says that galloping would be impossible up the steep slope of the ride in Richmond Park, and insists that though Patrick is a fast and lively horse he never went beyond a canter.

Yesterday, given his head on the gallops at Epsom, Patrick allegedly achieved about 23mph on a gentle slope.

Other riders supported Scarfield's allegations about the police. Miss Angela Johnson, stable girl at the Richmond Gate riding and livery

stables, said: "If I see them I make sure my horse is where it should be but I have been told off once. Two policemen saw me taking a short-cut off the road and chased me."

Last night, the Royal Parks Constabulary at Richmond declined comment. The Department of the Environment said: "The park regulations are there to be enforced."

The Royal Parks Police is a specialist force, one created in Victorian or Edwardian days, which exist alongside the regular police forces today to cover areas regarded as needing their own peculiar type of cover (Stewart Tandler writes).

Political sketch

Iron Lady eyes up the men at her feet

Ted Heath sauntered into the Chamber for Prime Minister's Questions, sat down, and began to chuckle. Sharing a plump joke with a plump colleague, he was there to celebrate a sticky patch for Mrs Thatcher, and the launch of his fifth decade in politics. This was a Little Boy Blue of an ex-Prime Minister. One's eye moved up from his royal blue socks to a suit whose blue the Dulux people might call "Capri" and a freshly-laundersed shirt in crisp navy and white stripes. A sky-blue tie completed the ensemble. He smiled blissfully a rhapsody in blue.

Mind you, the PM was pretty chipper too. Mr Kinnoch, currently passing through a sort of barrack-room-statistician stage, detained her briefly to ask whether — as she had said, inflation was "proceeding towards zero" — she saw its reduction from 7.9 per cent last year to 7.8 per cent now, as "proceeding". The short answer was "yes". Choosing not to break the habit of a lifetime, she gave the long one: the usual rant.

I fancy her heart was in a more agreeable task: choosing new ministers for her last, triumphant, reshuffle, to take place (she hopes) after the next election and before she hangs up her wand. She listened intently to her backbenchers.

Tim Smith (Beaconsfield) did well. All Times have nicely-creased trousers and this one is no exception. He asked a well-structured little question (about investment in Barnsley) in a manner respectful yet confident.

Mrs Thatcher flashed an interested smile. "Hm," one sensed her thinking. "Seems like a nice boy. Bright — reliable — done his homework — washed his hair... Where has this Tim been, all my life?"

Her reply was a model of gracious acknowledgement. Then, unprovoked, she lashed out at building societies. "Those who put their money in bricks and mortar," she barked, "Have done better than those who put their money in building societies."

Why in Heaven's name did she say that? Has she got the banks (who nearly scuppered student loans) confused with the building societies? And how could half the country

put money into bricks and mortar unless the other half invested with building societies?

The mystery unsolved, Mrs Thatcher resumed her talent-search. This lady likes to have submissive men around her, but not the gibbering kind: they should stand straight and speak clearly. And she likes a leaving of impertinent ones.

At present the impertinent category is under-stocked as Norman St John Stevas mistook his brief and got too impertinent, Eric Forth mistook his, and stopped being impertinent altogether, and only Alan Clark remains.

So when Neil Hamilton (C, Tatten) rose, the PM peered round with more than usual concentration. Mr Hamilton won a large liberal suit against the BBC for implying that he was on the "dangerous" right. Mr Hamilton is not dangerous but he is on the right.

He has, however, a sense of humour. Chosen by *The Spectator* as "Parliamentary Wit of the Year", he justified the honour by his acceptance-speech alone. He claimed to have misheard the title as "Parliamentary Twit" of the year. That, he said, would be a real honour for it would have been won against real competition.

Yesterday, Hamilton had a question about how *glasnost* had stormed Russia but still not penetrated Labour. He delivered it, above a gale of Opposition protest, in a brazenly winning style.

The PM grinned broadly. "Ah!" we sensed her thinking. "Just the sort of young monkey I'm looking for. Why don't the Whips tell me about chaps like this?"

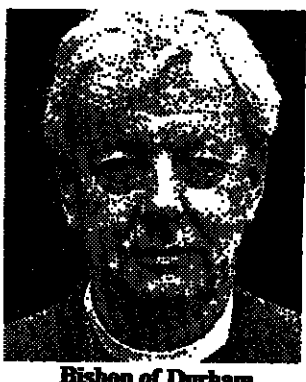
Three hours later, Denis Healey touched on a similar theme. "Last Sunday," he told the House. "The Observer, The Sunday Times, and the Sunday Telegraph were all backing the PM at the same time."

"She is the only person in the world who can get Peregine Worthington, Andrew Neil and Donald Treford in the same bed at the same time. Eat your heart out, Pamela Bordes."

Matthew Parris

Synod refuses to condemn Bishop of Durham

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor



Bishop of Durham

The General Synod of the Church of England yesterday refused by a very large majority to condemn the Bishop of Durham for his opinions on the virgin birth and the Resurrection.

There was little support for a motion which declared that only those who upheld the traditional Christian belief in the virgin conception and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ "should be eligible for

or remain in, episcopal or any other teaching office in the church".

The original motion, moved by Mrs Margaret Brown of Rochester, affirmed the General Synod's belief in the "miraculous conception" of Jesus, "without human fatherhood", and in the raising to life of Jesus's dead body after his crucifixion.

It was notable that the rescue of the Bishop was

largely achieved by traditionalists. The pivotal speech was made by the Archbishop of Leicester, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who persuaded the Synod that it was dangerous to go one word beyond the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds.

He opposed amendments to add the words "virginal" to "birth" and "bodily" to "resurrection". The Bishop of Durham, the

Rt Rev David Jenkins, was present but took no part in the debate.

Earlier, the Synod gave a mixed reception to a report which suggested modernizing church services for family worship or for working-class areas. Sir John Stokes, the Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, said the new forms of worship could be construed as "a knockabout farce".

De Klerk to meet ANC

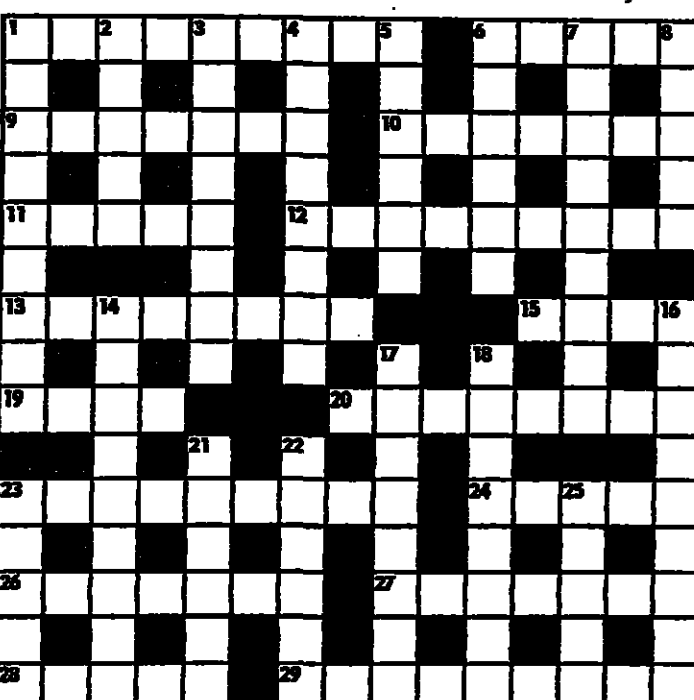
Continued from page 1 so openly because of pressure from Congress.

Some support for this view emerged yesterday when Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that the US should encourage negotiations in South Africa to end apart-

heid rather than focusing on new sanctions.

Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, yesterday repeated his denunciation of the British decision and insisted that neither President Bush nor Portugal had given full support to Mrs Thatcher's position as claimed by British officials.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,225



- ACROSS**
- Precipitately join two chiefs (9).
 - Crib's reportedly what will satisfy child (5).
 - Needle one doctor inserted in diaphragm (7).
 - Warm drink (7).
 - Fool starting to write excessively refined prose (5).
 - View bishop follows — correct, or a bloomer? (9).
 - Lower route in operation (5,3).
 - Remove from England's latest cricket side (4).
 - Structure created by social workers (4).
 - New queen's leading church procession (8).
 - Piece of light music? (5-4).
 - More highly spirited, as Oxford is (5).

- DOWN**
- Sir Lucius, nonetheless, set off (7).
 - Rough cow Northern chimney needed (7).
 - Muse with Liberal about Communist (5).
 - Extravagant, as the jet set are (4,5).
 - Frank personal revelation House received with compassion (4,5).
 - If listened to, advertisement will confuse (5).
 - Thriller with violent murderer in extremes of ferocity (8).
 - Soldier giving right poem to old sweetheart (8).
 - Summons American runners collectively (5).
 - Stole, perhaps, a product of mine, producing outcry (6).
 - Taking rest without protest (5,4).
 - Vacation time's beginning for composer (5).
 - Turning away to find amusement (9).
 - Slips, for example, in unusually dense film (9).
 - Get urchin to lay off pig (8).
 - Hector not on stage to get play started (5,3).
 - Eastern commander's heartless firearm (6).
 - A fraction outspoken? (6).
 - Unqualified youngster, a beginner at the wheel (5).
 - Little room on shortened instrument (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,224

GUBST AFFIRMER
A U T O R M E A
B A L T I M O R E B U M P S
O L E C N E E S Q
T R I O L E T C A D E N Z A
A O L O N C H A T L
G E N I T R E D A C T O R
E P B R H M
F U T U L A G E I M P L Y
C A N N O R
R A T T L E N S E A R O N
A I A O I T T
M A G O A U N T I S E R
B K L O D O W E R O
O U T H E R O D I N T E R N

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ART PARIS

- CONTRAPPOSTO**
a. An Italian primitive
b. A church dyptic
c. A pose of sculpture
EXXELIAS
a. A Greek potter
b. Coptic relief figures
c. A Flemish miniature
DIX
a. A spatula for stippling
b. The German satirist
c. Dutch still-life artist
MASIP
a. A brilliant orange paint
b. The Spanish Raphael
c. A Dutch art patron

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

- London & SE traffic, roadworks**
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
- National traffic and roadworks**
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
- AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).**

- London**
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (65F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 9C (48F). Humidity: 6 pm to 6 am, 8.8 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,023.4 millibars. Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in. 1,000 millibars = 29.92 in.
- HIGHTEST & LOWEST**
Yesterday: Highest day temp: London, 19C (65F); lowest day temp: Aberdeen, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: London, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Aberdeen, 10C (50F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in.
- MANCHESTER**
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.16 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in.
- GLASGOW**
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.16 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.01 in.

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WEATHER

Cloud and rain over Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and most of northern England. Meanwhile, drier weather with some bright spells will follow into much of Scotland. Cloudy over the rest of Wales and in south-west England, but mostly dry. The rest of England will be dry with some sunny spells. Mild everywhere. Outlook: Unsettled.

ABROAD

MEADAY: t-thunder; d-dry; q-q; s-sun; g-gle; s-sun; w-w; f-f; c-c; d-d; n-n

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	16	61	Malaga	16	61
Athens	16	61	Madrid	16	61
Bahia	16	61	Marseilles	16	61
Bombay	16	61	Medan	16	61
Buenos Aires	16	61	Mexico	16	61
Calcutta	16	61	Monrovia	16	61
Cairo	16	61	Mumbai	16	61
Cardiff	16	61	Nairobi	16	61
Chennai	16	61	Paris	16	61
Columbo	16	61	Rangoon	16	61
Dakar	16	61	Reykjavik	16	61
Dhaka	16	61	Rome	16	61
Dublin	16	61	Sao Paulo	16	61
Edinburgh	16	61	Seoul	16	61
Geneva	16	61	Singapore	16	61
Hong Kong	16	61	Stockholm	16	61
Jaipur	16	61	Sydney	16	61
Jakarta	16	61	Taipei	16	61
Kuala Lumpur	16	61	Tokyo	16	61
Lahore	16	61	Ulaanbaatar	16	61
London	16	61	Yokohama	16	61
Los Angeles	16	61			
Lyons	16	61			
Manila	16	61			
Moscow	16	61			
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Taipei	16	61			
Tokyo	16	61			
Ulaanbaatar	16	61			
Yokohama	16	61			

AROUND BRITAIN

Scarcely a cloud in the south, but rain over Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and most of northern England. Meanwhile, drier weather with some bright spells will follow into much of Scotland. Cloudy over the rest of Wales and in south-west England, but mostly dry. The rest of England will be dry with some sunny spells. Mild everywhere. Outlook: Unsettled.

ABROAD

MEADAY: t-thunder; d-dry; q-q; s-sun; g-gle; s-sun; w-w; f-f; c-c; d-d; n-n

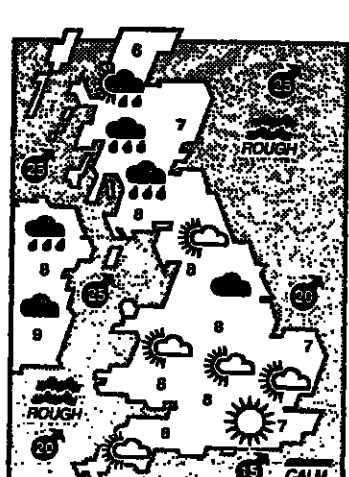
	C	F		C	F
Algeria	16	61	Malaga	16	61
Athens	16	61	Madrid	16	61
Bahia	16	61	Marseilles	16	61
Bombay	16	61	Medan	16	61
Buenos Aires	16	61	Mexico	16	61
Calcutta	16	61	Monrovia	16	61
Cairo	16	61	Mumbai	16	61
Cardiff	16	61	Nairobi	16	61
Chennai	16	61	Paris	16	61
Columbo	16	61	Rangoon	16	61
Dakar	16	61	Reykjavik	16	61
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Jakarta	16	61	Taipei	16	61
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Ulaanbaatar	16	61			
Yokohama	16	61			

TIMES WEATHERCALL

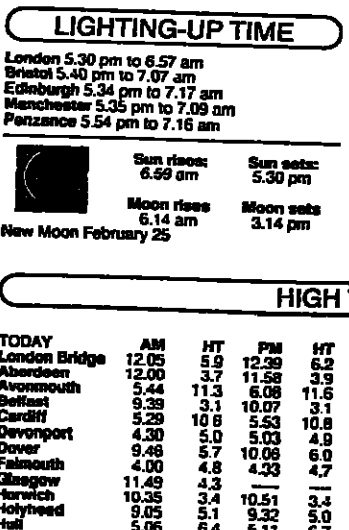
For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

- Greater London** 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset 705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon 706
Beds, Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708
West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent 709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs 710
Central Highlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincoln & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Chwyd 715
NW England 716
NW Scotland 717
N & E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
SW Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
E Central Scotland 723
Glasgow & E Highlands 724
NW Scotland 725
Glasgow, Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727
- Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 5.30 pm to 6.57 am
Bristol 5.40 pm to 7.07 am
Edinburgh 5.54 pm to 7.16 am
Manchester 5.54 pm to 7.16 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; s, sun.

976	988	984	976
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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7155 (+0.0020)
W German mark
2.8632 (+0.0046)
Exchange index
90.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1789.8 (+6.0)
FT-SE 100
2269.2 (+9.5)
USM (Datastream)
152.07 (+0.10)

Market report, page 26

Disposal of docks stake is halted

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, has halted the Government's sale of a 20.7 per cent stake in Mersey Docks and Harbour because of the Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into shareholdings in the company.

NSM 'rights'

NSM is calling on shareholders for £49 million via a two-for-seven rights issue at 85p. It is forecasting pre-tax profits of £26 million (£16.5 million) for 1989-90 and a dividend of 3.5p, up 0.5p. *Tempus*, page 22

Moat backed

Balmoral International has thrown its weight behind the £170 million bid from Queens Moat Houses for Norfolk Capital. Balmoral owns about 13 per cent of Norfolk.

STOCK MARKETS

New York:	
Dow Jones	2812.39 (+28.83)
Nikkei Average	35826.84 (+92.51)
Hong Kong	2927.92 (+65.65)
Amsterdam	107.6 (+1.3)
Sydney: AO	1608.0 (-15.2)
Frankfurt: DAX	1620.15 (+12.96)
Brussels:	
General	5559.19 (+14.72)
Paris: CAC	493.88 (+5.22)
Zurich: S&K Gen	610.3 (+3.3)
FT-A All-Share	1131.29 (+3.51)
FT-100	1231.83 (+3.74)
FT Gold Mines	363.3 (-7.2)
FT 1000	5250 (+20.0)
FT Govt Secs	79.91 (-0.09)

Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
Parifield	402p (+15p)
Kleen-E-2a	147p (+10p)
Westpac	289p (+8p)
Henderson Admin	785p (+10p)
Borland	767p (+65p)
Logica	339p (+9p)
Braddock	257p (+15p)
Davies & Newman	525p (+20p)
Tipnook	477p (+12p)
Barr & W A 'A'	315p (+10p)
Dagen	755p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Dormant Holdings	735p (-10p)
Satchi & Satchi	181p (-20p)
Rechem	505p (-8p)
JS Pathology	192p (-10p)
A. Kershaw	535p (-25p)
Wolstenholme Plink	262p (-25p)
A Cohen	825p (-25p)
Cherning	500p (-35p)
MAP	214p (-7p)
Closing prices	22542
SEAQ Volume	398.0m

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	15%
3-month interbank 15%:	15.1%
3-month eligible bills:	14.1%
US: Prime Rate:	10%
Federal Funds:	8.75%
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.75-7.74%
30-year bonds:	9.8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.7155	£: \$1.7150
£: DM2.8632	£: DM1.8695
£: Sfr2.5235	£: Sfr1.4720
£: FF6.5670	£: FF6.5670
£: Yen250.28	£: Yen145.90
£: Index: 90.3	£: Index: 88.8
ECU 20.714013	SDR 16.76440
£: ECU1.40034	£: SDR1.267929

GOLD

London: Gold:	
£415.00 (m-£417.05)	
close £417.50-418.00 (£243.50-244.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$417.50-418.00	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) ...	\$19.45 bbl (\$19.50)
Domestic latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	20.85	19.75
Austria Sch	82.65	81.70
Belgium Fr	2.112	2.013
Canada C	11.45	10.85
Denmark Kr	16.11	15.51
Finland Mark	2.99	2.81
France Fr	263.50	267.50
Germany DM	14.71	14.11
Greece Dr	1.133	1.065
Hong Kong \$	7.75	7.65
India Rupee	254	248
Japan Yen	11.33	10.87
Netherlands Gld	264	248
Norway Kr	4.65	4.25
Portugal Esc	204	198
Spain Ptas	161	155
Sweden Kr	10.58	10.32
Switzerland Fr	2.038	1.978
Turkey Lira	4525	3925
USA \$	1.795	1.685
Yugoslavia Din	215	205

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 119.5 (January)

Still Walters ponders deep on the many evils of EMS membership



Chairing a session of a conference organized by the Cato Institute of Washington and co-sponsored by the Institute of Economic Affairs in London, Sir Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's former economic adviser, repeated his criticisms of the European Monetary System, saying: "I suppose it's possible to think up worse systems than the EMS, but it would take some time."

Elders delays plan for restructuring

By David Tweed and Stephen Leather

Elders IXL, the Australian conglomerate which owns Courage in Britain, has postponed the announcement of the details of its restructuring involving Grand Metropolitan, the British food and drinks group.

It is also delaying announcing its interim profits, originally due today. They are now not expected until Tuesday or later.

Mr Andrew Peacock, leader of the federal opposition in Australia, has accepted an offer from Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, for a confidential briefing on any National Crime Authority (NCA) documents relating to deals involving Mr John Elliott, Elders chairman.

Earlier this week it was alleged in the Australian press that the NCA, which was set up to investigate organized crime in Australia, had sought to extend its activities and had been given permission to in-

quire into the takeover of Elders IXL by Harlin Holdings, a company controlled by key Elders executives. After the initial allegations, Mr Elliott denied any impropriety and accused the government of leaking the information as part of a political campaign against him. Mr Elliott is also the president of the Liberal Party, which is preparing for federal elections on March 24.

Mr Hawke's offer to Mr Peacock has possibly confirmed that an inquiry exists - despite government policy of neither confirming nor denying NCA inquiries. Mr Elliott has made it clear that there has been no approach made to him, any of the Elders' board or anyone associated with Elders IXL by the NCA, the National Companies and Securities Commission or by any other authorities on this matter. But it is thought the disclosure that the NCA is "investigating" matters concerning Mr Elliott

has a bearing on the postponement of the restructuring announcement.

The widely-anticipated restructuring involves Elders placing its 23.7 per cent stake in Scottish & Newcastle and organizing a huge asset swap with Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group. Under the deal, which Mr Elliott is still trying to seal with Mr Allen Sheppard, GrandMet chairman, Elders will gain more than half of GrandMet's brewing business and GrandMet will take over part of Courage's 5,000 public house chain.

The deal is thought to involve the sale of GrandMet's five breweries, Truman, Watney, Usher, Websters and Ruddells, but has been complicated by the £1 billion of debt attached to the Courage public houses.

On Monday Mr Sheppard told shareholders at the GrandMet annual meeting that the group is also in talks with another potential buyer

for its breweries, but his first aim is to complete the deal with Mr Elliott.

Mr Tim Halford, a GrandMet spokesman, said: "Our discussions with Elders are continuing. We hope to make an announcement by the spring. Our situation has not changed." He confirmed that GrandMet is aware of the NAC inquiry.

The publicity about the NCA could colour the response to the restructuring and obscure what Elders regards as the positive aspects of the proposal. It is expected Elders will sell parts of the group, hive-off others, return capital to shareholders, and end up retaining its brewing operations.

In another development yesterday, the home and offices of Mr Geoff Lord, the managing director of Elders Resources NZFP Limited (ERL), were raided by the Victorian Corporate Affairs Commission. ERL is 43 per cent owned by Elders IXL.

National Power plans three gas-fired plants

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Plans to build three environmentally-friendly gas-fired power stations have been drawn up by National Power, the largest of the two new power-generating companies to be created next month, which originally planned five pressurized-water-cooled-reactor nuclear power stations.

The new stations will be in addition to the two gas-fired plants already planned by National Power at Killingholme on Humberside and Little Barford on the Bedfordshire border.

The new stations - National Power has eight sites identified for such developments - could be built at West Burton and Staythorpe, Nottinghamshire and Padiham, Lancashire.

While the stations are partly being built to plug the energy gap created by the government decision to impose a four-year moratorium on nuclear power development, the plans have been criticized by the coal unions, especially the Union of Democratic Mineworkers in Nottinghamshire, who hoped the proposed West Burton coal-fired station would shortly be given government approval.

National Power already owns the sites and has outline planning permission to build the West Burton plant.

The new study being undertaken does not rule out the

West Burton station being built, but increasing environmental pressure on the power industry means gas-fired stations are more likely to be economically viable and receive local planning approval.

The economics of gas-fired stations - especially with the availability of natural gas to drive combined cycle-plants which use gas in primary turbines and the exhaust heat to drive steam turbines - means almost all power stations to be built in the next 10 years will be gas-fired.

Previously gas was classed as premium fuel and not used for power generation by an EEC directive. In addition British Gas had a virtual monopoly on supplies, but now it can only contract to take a maximum of 90 per cent of any new fields discovered and its must also open its pipeline grid to any company to transport its own gas supplies from site to site.

British Coal is developing its own clean-coal-burning technology which will be used in a new power station at Billingham in the Nottinghamshire coal-field, but it could be five years before it is operating.

National Power has said that the building of a gas turbine plant at West Burton does not rule out the building of a large-scale coal-fired power stations there.

ICI turns in record £1,527m

By John Bell, City Editor

Imperial Chemical Industries, one of Britain's biggest manufacturing companies, reported record profits for 1989 of £1,527 million, up 4 per cent on the previous year. But a fourth-quarter fall in profits from £340 million to £296 million dampened market enthusiasm and ICI shares edged up 14p to 1041p.

Sir Denis Henderson, the chairman, said 1989 had not been an easy year. Demand had been at record levels in the first half but fell away as higher interest rates began to bite. The top of the business cycle was probably reached in the second quarter of last year and there was evidence of de-stocking in the last half, he said.

Turnover climbed 13 per cent to £13.2 billion. Volume gains accounted for 3 per cent, higher prices 5 per cent and favourable exchange rate movements another 5 points. Earnings per share grew 4 per cent to 135p, while total dividend payments rose 10 per cent to 55p after a second interim payment of 34p.

Comment, page 23

Midland tumbles into red after write-offs of £846m

By Neil Bennett

Midland Bank slumped to a loss of £261 million in 1989, compared with pre-tax profits of £693 million the year before, after it was forced to write off £846 million in provisions against Third World debt and £31 million against local council swap contracts.

The bank also admitted it lost more than £16 million in Midland Montagu's enlarged treasury department after a senior executive decided interest rates would start to fall in the year.

"We have suffered from two serious adverse factors," said Sir Kit McMahon, the chairman, as he presented the

figures, "but we have seen a lot of good developments throughout our business."

Group profits before exceptional write-offs fell 11 per cent to £616 million, although the year's dividend climbs to 18p, up 10 pence. The Third World debt write-offs take

Tempus 22
Midland's provisions to 50 per cent, 25 per cent lower than National Westminster which reported on Tuesday.

"There is a degree of karmic-like behaviour among banks who are getting out of their debt when secondary market prices are extremely

low. We do not feel the approach to be a wise one," said Sir Kit.

Midland Montagu interest income fell 31 per cent to £263 million after the bank merged all its treasury departments into the merchant bank subsidiary.

The bank also suffered a sharp rise in other bad debt provisions to £175 million, up from £43 million. International provisions rose to £93 million and included write-offs against loans to Mr Alan Bond. Sir Kit added few details about the bank's merger discussions with Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Woolwich pegs back mortgage rise

By Joe Ashworth

The Woolwich, Britain's third largest building society, has lifted its mortgage rate to 15.25 per cent - the best deal yet in the latest round of interest rate rises.

The move undercuts all major lenders, including the Halifax, which is to raise its

rate to 15.4 per cent from March 1. Mr Donald Kirkham, chief executive of the Woolwich, said the society, in maintaining the lowest base rate among the major building societies, had limited the potential impact on new and existing borrowers.

The Halifax, the biggest building society, has fixed

monthly repayments for most of its 1.7 million borrowers until April 1991, taking some sting out of the latest rises.

Mr Jim Birrell, chief executive, said the rise would have a minimal effect since 80 per cent of existing borrowers are on Budget Plan, which fixes the level of payments until April 1991.

Liquidators at builder unable to service £200m debts

Slump in housing fells Declan Kelly

By Matthew Bond

Declan Kelly, the private housebuilder, has gone into voluntary liquidation, unable to service debts of about £200 million.

It is the biggest housebuilder to succumb to the slump in sales, particularly in London and the South-east. Kentish Homes, the quoted London Docklands developer, collapsed last summer with debts of £65 million.

The decision to appoint liquidators to Declan Kelly and eight of its subsidiaries came four days after the company had approved the calling in of receivers at four developments funded by the Halifax building society.

Since then, other secured lenders have called in receivers at a number of other sites, giving the holding company little choice but to go into voluntary liquidation. The lenders include the Nationwide Anglia building society, which

provided the company with £12 million on a fully secured basis.

Mr Neil Cooper and Mr Richard Long of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, have been appointed liquidators.

Yesterday, Mr Cooper said of the company's problems: "Until now, Declan Kelly has been one of the fastest growing private companies in the United Kingdom. I believe that the company's directors would attribute this to the downturn in the residential property market."

Last night, a team from the liquidators was at Declan Kelly's headquarters gathering information on the extent of the group's problems. Only two years ago, the company was thought to be contemplating a public flotation.

Declan Kelly, originally an Irish company but now based near Guilford, has a substantial development programme in and around London. It has

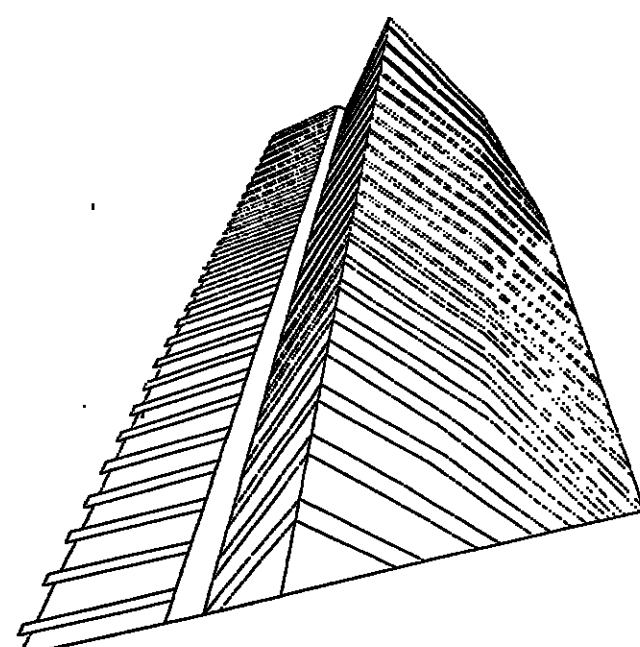
gained a reputation for paying land prices that other developers balk at and being heavily dependent on pre-selling.

Last year, it paid the Royal Mail £25 million for just two acres of land at Horseferry Road in central London, where it planned to build more than 300,000 sq ft of commercial space, as well as a residential development.

Two years ago, it paid £30 million for the site of the old St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where, jointly with Eagle Star, it was developing 585 flats priced at between £90,000 and £500,000. The slump in flat prices is thought to have left the developers facing a projected loss.

The company has more than 30 sites in London and the South-east and had plans to build up to 1,800 houses and flats. Together with its commercial property, the company's development programme has an estimated finished value of £500 million.

On the instructions of
National Westminster Bank &
A 30 Storey Office Tower
in the Heart of the City of London



DRAPERS GARDENS . THROGMORTON AVENUE . EC2

- Vacant possession Summer 1990
- 185,000 sq ft with car parking
- Planning permission for a two storey extension of 40,000 sq ft
- Refitted internally including renewal of air conditioning, ceilings and lighting, the upgrading of lifts and electrical supply and installation of raised floors

BAKER
HARRIS
SAUNDERS
01-796 4000

TEMPUS

Debt keeps Midland house in disorder

Managing Midland Bank is like building a house of cards in an earthquake. No sooner do Sir Kit McMahon and his men get one part of the business right than another shakes, while the Furies of Third World debt continue to pursue the bank in its attempts to return to normality.

Unfortunately, it was not only Midland's £877 million provision against the capital of its Third World debt and local authority swaps, the minimum allowed under Bank of England guidelines, which dragged it to a £261 million loss. The treasury division's gamble that interest rates would fall cost the bank 19 per cent of its pre-provision profits.

The increasing unwillingness of Brazil and its neighbours to pay interest on their debts cost £174 million against just £7 million in 1988.

At home, profits at Forward Trust fell due to rising interest rates, while the introduction of interest-bearing current accounts cost £28 million.

There were two shining exceptions in the results: Samuel Montagu's profits, up 168 per cent to £75 million, while Thomas Cook gained 17 per cent to £22.5 million.

Midland's costs also need urgent attention. Three years ago, the bank was promising the cost/income ratio would soon be in the mid-sixties. In 1989, it rose by 2.6 per cent to

a clearly uncompetitive 70.4 per cent. Although Sir Kit is reticent on the level of cost savings Midland has identified, they have to be substantial.

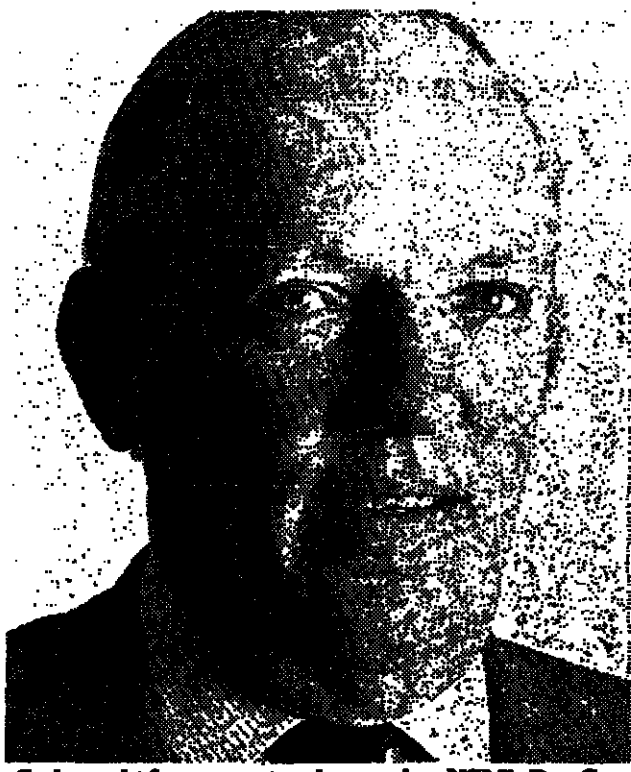
The Third World issue remains paramount at the bank, which still has £2.16 billion of unprovisioned debt, and is unwilling or unable to write it off or sell it. The provisions have left the bank's core capital ratio at 5.4 per cent, down from 6.5 per cent, and have restricted the year's dividend growth to 10 per cent at 18p.

Midland's shares, at 348p, have been supported by its likely merger with Hongkong and Shanghai. If not, they would probably be below the 345p-a-share net asset value. There is growing feeling the merger will come this year, although shareholders should not expect a cash bonanza from the crown colony. Little to go for otherwise.

NSM

NSM's £49 million rights issue took a number of people by surprise, not least Mr David McLellan, the former chairman, whose current vehicle, Anglo United, holds 21.5 per cent of the equity. But in a way, the scene for the cash-raising exercise was set while he was still at the helm.

NSM is the old Burnett & Hallamshire, the open-cast



Cash sought for open-cast coal expansion: NSM's Don Carr

coal mining group which Mr McLellan rescued by way of an asset swap with Anglo early in 1988. Barely five months later, NSM splashed out £82 million on Bison, the supplier of pre-cast concrete floors. Although it issued £55 million of paper at the time, the deal left NSM highly geared.

Without the proceeds of the rights issue, NSM's net debts

would now be equal to shareholders' funds of £32 million. But at least the company has a good set of figures to get it away. Pre-tax profits are forecast to rise from £16.5 million to £26 million in the 12 months to March, thanks to a 41 per cent underlying improvement at Bison.

Mr Don Carr, the present chairman, said that the money

was needed to expand the company's open-cast coal operations in Britain and America and to develop the coal sites for waste disposal. But it is hard to take at face value his insistence that the move was not motivated by opportunism. It is also worrying that a £6.5 million provision has been made against a Scottish open-cast coal site acquired from Anglo.

The terms of the issue are for seven at 85p and NSM's shares fell 8p to 96p on the announcement. At 93½p ex-rights, the shares reflect a prospective p/e ratio of 9, fully diluted, assuming profits of £38 million in 1990-91. The Kuwaiti Investment Office is taking up the rights on its 15 per cent stake, although Anglo, which reduced its holding in NSM in September, has still to make up its mind.

British Gas

Either British Gas has its costs under better control than was thought, or it is really running scared of Mr James Mackinnon at Ofgas.

A 7.5 per cent increase in prices for the coming year looks a couple of points short of what might have been, particularly since the company had some headroom by carrying forward a positive K factor from last year.

Under its agreement with

Ofgas it is permitted to raise its price to reflect any increase in the cost of its gas, but it is restricted to inflation less 2 per cent when it comes to recouping non-gas costs.

What is interesting is that the announcement has been brought forward by a month, suggesting the group is anxious not to allow rising gas prices to affect profits. Since an index-linked price rise has long been built into calculations, the rise has little implication for profit projections. But it would appear to confirm that staff cutbacks and other cost-cutting measures are having effect.

Forecasts for net income in the year to end-March are being nudged lower with every day without frost, and now range from £950 million to £975 million. Next year, analysts say, look for anything between £1.14 billion and £1.2 billion.

What the market does not appear to have absorbed, as yet, is the full implication of the group's promise to increase its dividend rates. This should mean a 12p net payment next year, indicating a dividend yield of 7.3 per cent at yesterday's 219p, an unreasonably high premium to those of BP and Shell. Given the group's relative immunity to recession, this is the wrong time to sell.

Under its agreement with

WORLD ROUNDUP

Stagecoach to face MMC investigation

Stagecoach Holdings, a bus operations group with headquarters in Perth, is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) following its acquisition of two bus operations in the Portsmouth and Havant area.

The investigation has been ordered by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade and Industry Secretary, on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading, because of possible effects on competition, both for bus services and in taking on bus contracts, such as uneconomic rural services which are subsidised by a local authority. The investigation centres on the acquisition by Stagecoach of Portsmouth Citybus last October when Stagecoach, the previous August, had acquired the South-down bus operation — a direct competitor of Citybus. It gives Stagecoach about 90 per cent of the bus operations market locally, it is estimated.

York Water at the double

York Water has doubled its pre-tax profits from £502,000 to £1.06 million on turnover up from £4.25 million to £5.2 million, 1989. York has so far escaped the attentions of the French water conglomerates, although Equity & Law is thought to have an 18 per cent stake. Dividends will be paid at the maximum rates — 3.5p for ordinary shares and 4.2p for preference.

EFT Group ahead 7%

Edinburgh Financial Trust, the former investment trust that has been transformed into a merchant bank called EFT Group, has increased pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to £1.31 million on turnover up 72 per cent to £5.72 million for the year to end-December. But earnings per share fell from 3.25p to 3p, while the dividend is up from 0.7p to 1p. Net assets per ordinary share fell from 33p to 32p.

Sinclair Goldsmith up

Sinclair Goldsmith, the commercial property agent, raised interim profits despite what Mr Edward Langton, the chairman, described as "tougher market conditions."

In the six months to November the company made pre-tax profits of £956,000, a rise of under 2 per cent. After a slightly increased tax charge, earnings per share were static at 5.54p. The interim dividend of 1.5p is also unchanged. According to Mr Langton, the board regards the current year as a period of consolidation, with overheads being cut to cope with what it sees as difficult times ahead. The company came to the market three years ago, via a placing at 90p a share, but in the last year it has bought in 1.25 per cent of its own shares for cancellation.

Seacon rises to £1.53m

Seacon Holdings, the Third Market shipping and steel importing group based in London's Docklands, has reported a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.53 million for the year to end-September. Earnings per share rose from 15.78p to 17.46p, and a final 1.95p makes 3.15p (2.5p). The company, which last month sold Milford Docks Co for £5.7 million, said the current year would be difficult.

Vantage asset value up 21%

The net asset value at Vantage Securities, the investment trust, increased by 21 per cent to 131.5p. Gross income advanced by 12 per cent to £214,000, while net revenue climbed by 17 per cent to £107,000. Earnings rose from 3.05p to 3.55p per share and the final dividend is improved from 2.4p to 2.9p, making 3.5p for the year, compared with 3p last time. The shares firmed by 1p to 119p.

STC wins £15m order

STC, the communications and information systems group, has won a third order from British Telecom for a big international services exchange produced by Northern Telecom. STC's largest single shareholder. The order is valued at about £15 million and was won against competition which included AT&T of the US and Sweden's LM Ericsson.

The new exchange is part of a £50 million project to strengthen British Telecom's position as a key world carrier and international hub. The exchange, to be sited at Madley, Herefordshire, will support 45,000 lines and will be one of the largest of its type in the world.

Proxy votes 'back Rosehaugh rights'

By Matthew Bond

Mr Godfrey Bradman, chairman of Rosehaugh, the residential and commercial property developer, appears to be winning the battle to persuade institutional shareholders to approve the company's £125 million rights issue.



Godfrey Bradman: winning

Final approval must wait for this afternoon's extraordinary meeting, but proxies are understood to have been arriving at the offices of SG Warburg, the company's financial adviser, heavily in favour of the one-for-one issue being approved.

A high level of proxy votes has been received, accounting for about 30 per cent of the company's equity. Although Warburg declined to comment, the proxies received so far are thought to be running 49 per cent in favour of the issue being approved.

Before the rights issue was announced Rosehaugh's shares stood at 465p. They

closed yesterday at 357p. However, the new shares are being issued at 200p, a discount that the institutions appear to have been unable to resist.

Rosehaugh announced the rights after group borrowings had risen from £262 million to £410 million in seven months. The company has a further £962 million of borrowings off balance sheet, most in non-recourse form.

EC ministers agree insurance proposal

From Peter Guilford, Brussels

European Community ministers have given their initial approval to a new strategy for the European insurance market, to be launched this year by Sir Leon Brittan, EC Commissioner for financial services.

Sir Leon claims his measures will end the fragmented nature of insurance in the EC, although he may meet stiff opposition from the governments of West Germany, Spain, Greece and others, which still cushion their insurance companies from foreign competition.

British insurance firms are, arguably, the most competitive in the Community, and stand to gain heavily from the new Commission strategy.

Central to the strategy will be a proposed "single passport" giving insurance companies the right to sell both life and non-life policies to clients anywhere in the Community.

This will be subject to clearance only from the authorities of their home

country. The directive will ensure that national prudential standards are acceptable to all Community countries first.

Sir Leon said it was crucial to guarantee adequate protection for policy-holders and third parties, while encouraging insurance companies to offer more flexible services at better prices.

Later this year, Sir Leon will also propose allowing private pension funds to sell pensions to clients throughout the Community.

This would pave the way to the creation of "pan-European pension funds," according to the Commission.

The rules would also ensure that pension funds could be managed from abroad, and their assets invested anywhere in the Community.

EC internal market ministers gave a first nod of approval to this, and other planned measures, during a meeting in Brussels yesterday.

British Gas Advises its Contract Customers of Price Increases

With effect from 1st March 1990 British Gas will apply the following revised Scheduled Reference Prices to the tables incorporated within Schedules CSP1 and F12.

The appropriate revised prices will be charged in accordance with the terms of the customer's contract conditions.

The revised prices are incorporated within updated Schedules bearing the reference of either CSP2 or F13.

Copies of these Schedules are available upon request from the Registered and Regional Head Offices of British Gas plc.

TABLE 1	ORIGINAL SCHEDULE F12: RE-NUMBERED F13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
VOLUME BAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
NOMINATED CONSUMPTION THERMS/ANNUUM	25,001 to 50,000	50,001 to 100,000	100,001 to 150,000	150,001 to 200,000	200,001 to 250,000	250,001 to 300,000	300,001 to 3,000,000	3,000,001 to 5,000,000	5,000,001 to 10,000,000	10,000,001 to 25,000,000	25,000,001 to 50,000,000	50,000,001 to 100,000,000	Greater than 100,000,000
MONTHLY CHARGE (£)	57	57	57	57	57	57	1,046	2,504	1,587	15,962	22,293	37,920	48,337
Number of Premises	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
2	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
3	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
4	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
5	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
6	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
7	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
8	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
9	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
10	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
11	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
12	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00
13	36.25	36.00	33.25	32.25	31.25	30.25	28.50	27.25	25.00	24.00	23.25	23.00	23.00

TABLE 3	ORIGINAL SCHEDULE F12: RE-NUMBERED F13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
VOLUME BAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NOMINATED CONSUMPTION THERMS/ANNUUM	200,001 to 500,000	500,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 2,000,000	2,000,001 to 5,000,000	5,000,001 to 10,000,000	10,000,001 to 25,000,000	25,000,001 to 50,000,000	50,000,001 to 100,000,000	Greater than 100,000,000
MONTHLY CHARGE (£)	328	911	2,244	5,000	12,244	16,244	30,827	41,594	54,924
Number of Premises	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
2	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
3	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
4	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
5	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
6	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
7	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
8	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50
9	28.60	27.20	25.60	24.70	23.50	22.50	21.60	21.00	20.50

TABLE 4	ORIGINAL SCHEDULE F12: RE-NUMBERED F13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
VOLUME BAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NOMINATED CONSUMPTION THERMS/ANNUUM	200,001 to 500,000	500,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 2,000,000	2,000,001 to 5,000,000	5,000,001 to 10,000,000	10,000,001 to 25,000,000	25,000,001 to 50,000,000	50,000,001 to 100,000,000	Greater than 100,000,000
MONTHLY CHARGE (£)	427	1,177	2,309	5,000	12,177	17,177	30,827	41,594	54,924
Number of Premises	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
2	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
3	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
4	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
5	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
6	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
7	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
8	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70
9	26.60	24.80	23.50	22.80	21.80	20.80	19.80	19.20	18.70

TABLE 5	ORIGINAL SCHEDULE F12 RE-NUMBERED F13				LONG PERIOD INTERRUPTIBLE - SCHEDULED REFERENCE PRICE				
VOLUME BAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
NOMINATED CONSUMPTION THERMS/ANNUUM	200,001 to 500,000	500,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 2,000,000	2,000,001 to 5,000,000	5,000,001 to 10,000,000	10,000,001 to 25,000,000	25,000,001 to 50,000,000	Greater than 50,000,000	
MONTHLY CHARGE (£)	760	1,594	3,176	6,309	12,709	17,709	30,827	41,594	
Number of Premises	Price per therm (p)								
1	22.50	20.50	18.60	17.80	16.80	15.80	14.80	14.20	
2	24.50	21.50	19.60	18.80	18.20	18.10	18.00	18.00	
3	—	22.50	20.60	19.80	19.20	19.10	19.00	19.00	
4-5	—	—	22.50	21.60	20.20	20.10	20.00	20.00	
6-10	—	—	—	21.60	21.20	21.10	21.00	21.00	
11-20	—	—	—	—	22.20	22.20	22.00	22.00	
21-50	—	—	—	—	23.80	24.10	24.00	24.00	
51-100	—	—	—	—	—	24.10	24.00	24.00	
101-500	—	—	—	—	—	—	25.10	25.00	
501-1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.00	
1001-5000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27.00	

Racal pays £22m for 20% holding in SIS

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

Racal Electronics is paying £22 million for a 20 per cent stake in Satellite Information Services, the company that supplies Britain's 10,000 betting shops with live televised racing coverage. At the same time MAI, the media services group, will take 7.14 per cent.

The move is the first step in what is expected to be an important expansion programme at SIS, taking it into new fields, including financial information services. Plans include possible flotation of SIS in two or three years' time.

Racal becomes the largest single shareholder in SIS, which was formed three years ago by Britain's four leading bookmakers, Ladbroke, William Hill, Mecca and Coral, which between them owned 65 per cent before the deal.

Ladbroke — chaired by Mr Cyril Stein — with Brent Walker, owner of William Hill and Mecca, and Bass, parent of Coral, is selling shares as part of a scheme that will reduce their joint holdings to 45 per cent, in line with a request from racing authorities.

After the share swap, Ladbroke, which was the largest holder with 27.7 per cent, will have 18 per cent. Brent Walker and Bass, which held 19.1 per cent each, will have 15 and 12 per cent respectively. Sears, which retained its 19.1 per cent share in SIS when it sold William Hill, is reduced to 11.86 per cent.

Of the remaining 15 per cent, 10 per cent is held by the Racecourse Association, and 5 per cent by the Horserace Totalisator Board (the Tote).

Mr Christopher Stoddart, SIS chief executive, confirmed yesterday that after initial losses during development, the business is operating profitably with a positive cash flow. The cash injection, with new loan facilities of £45 million, will finance expansion, which has already taken it into news broadcasting.

SIS said that Racal, with its interests in data and telecommunications, and MAI, in media and information services, offered "potential for commercial collaboration and the identification of mutually beneficial opportunities."

Racal, like all the other major shareholders, will have a representative on the SIS board — Mr Geoffrey Lomer, Racal's technical director.



Sitting on an 18% stake: Cyril Stein, chairman of Ladbroke

Lloyd's names serve writs

By Melinda Wittstock

The first writs were served yesterday on the troubled 1982 RHM Outhwaite syndicate and 80 members' agents in the biggest legal action ever seen in the £11 billion Lloyd's insurance market.

The writs, by 865 disgruntled Lloyd's names, allege negligence over losses from a continuing flood of US asbestos and pollution claims which could total £1 billion.

The 865 names, out of the 1,614 on the twin Outhwaite syndicates 317 and 661, are seeking \$600 million compensation for losses so far amounting to £304 million. They include Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, Mr Tony Jackson, the golfer, Lord Weidenfeld, the publisher, and Mr Patrick Sheehy, the chairman of BAT Industries.

If successful in the litigation, the names will automatically be entitled to still more compensation if liabilities increase further, said Richards Butler, the legal firm acting on behalf of the names.

The 1,614 names on the Outhwaite syndicate, which took on non-marine reinsurance from 32 other syndicates in 1981 and 1982, have already paid out £94 million to cover the losses, which under Lloyd's rules on unlimited liability will increase still more.

Mr Peter Nutting, chairman of the Outhwaite 1982 Names Association which has organized the litigation, said he would be surprised if the next cash call this summer were less than £120 million, though anything more than £130 million would be "catastrophic."

Each of the 865 names have together subscribed £1.3 million to the Names Association's litigation fund, having each paid £250 plus the equivalent of 4 per cent of their line.

Mr Nutting and Mr Mark Connolly, a partner in Richards Butler, were confident yesterday of success in the trial, likely to be heard in 1991.

But Mr Murdoch McLeod, a spokesperson for the Outhwaite syndicate, said he was confident "all the points raised by the names are defensible."

COMMENT David Brewerton

ICI's glamour role loses its attractions

If ICI is still the bellwether of British industry, then watch out for 1990. The shares have been losing their new image won during the 1980s with the move away from cyclical commodity chemicals and more deeply into higher growth areas such as pharmaceuticals, agrichemicals and specialty businesses.

In fact, the bellwether-of-Britain cliché can no longer be applied to a group that has deliberately made itself more international. These days, only 22 per cent of sales arise in Britain, though, with more than £3 billion of exports, ICI's home base remains vital.

ICI's new downgrading relative to the market remains something of a mystery, because the reshaping of the group has been nothing short of dramatic. Ten years ago, close on 70 per cent of non-chemical profits arose from oil and fertilizers. Today, oil has disappeared and fertilizers contribute nothing but losses. Indeed, but for a marketing desire in ICI to offer a one-stop shopping facility to the farming community, it is difficult to see how the fertilizer operations justify inclusion in its portfolio.

These days, almost half the record profits come from the much more glamorous areas pursued ardently under the regime of Sir John Harvey-Jones, ICI's former chairman.

But yesterday, only the more optimistic of analysts were forecasting unchanged profits during the current year. Most were going along with numbers such as those from Smith New Court, which sees a sharpish fall from £1,527 million to £1,390 million this year.

Despite the restructuring, ICI appears still to be exposed when two of its largest markets, Britain and the US, teeter on the brink of recession. The areas of most concern are still general chemicals and petrochemicals, which account for half the group's total. At this early stage of the year, it looks as though expected progress from pharmaceuticals and agrichemicals will not be able to make up for ground lost elsewhere.

The exceptional profits on disposals of non-core businesses are not likely to recur on the same scale this year. Also worrying analysts is the fact that fourth-quarter profits, admittedly a seasonally weak return for ICI, were at the bottom end of expectations once the exceptional profits are stripped out.

The shares are currently on a prospective rating of little more than 8.5 times earnings, which harks back to the bad old days of the early 1980s.

The market appears no longer to be clear about its view of ICI in the next year or two. The shares are unlikely to make much headway until a consensus emerges.

In sickness or in health

Aneecdotal evidence about the state of the financial services industry stretches all the way from New York to London. In the high-profile securities industry, the jumpy state of nerves can be illustrated by the sudden and unexplained departure yesterday of John Chien, widely regarded as London's best equity stockbroker, from County NatWest, and the inability of UBS Phillips & Drew to come to a decision, let alone a settlement, about its responsibility to pay compensation to those who lost money by being caught up in the Blue Arrow swindle.

But for all the anecdotes, there is precious little hard evidence with which to judge the health of the financial services industry as a whole. The Confederation of British Industry, which is well practised at taking the pulse of manufacturing industry and retail activity, has now added finance to its quarterly readings, and finds that confidence is falling as fast as costs are rising.

Nevertheless, the commonly accepted view of financial services as being hit by rationalizations and shake-outs is countered by the survey's findings that 41 per cent of the businesses saw increases in employment in the three months to December, with the pattern likely to continue, although at a somewhat reduced rate of growth.

Despite the evidence of the past week, banks were the chipiest about business volumes, both past and future: 58 per cent reported increases in the three months to December and 49 per cent still expected more in the following three months. Securities trading at stockbrokers was the most subdued, 47 per cent reporting falls. Further falls were anticipated by 38 per cent. In pursuit of efficiency the financial institutions will continue to be big spenders especially on information technology. But less spending on land and buildings — projected by 40 per cent — points to a sluggish influence on the commercial property market.

Oil set for mini boom says bank

Royal Bank of Scotland has said that the British oil industry is entering a "mini-boom" which should lead to investment levels peaking at £2.9 billion during 1991.

In January, British oil output rose by 1.9 per cent, but the average daily value of the oil rose by 2.3 per cent, indicating a further hardening of prices.

Record jumps

Pre-tax profits at Record Holdings, the band and bench tool maker in a £13.2 million bid battle with James Wilkes for Easterbrook Alford, jumped 17.6 per cent to £4.72 million in the year to end-December. Turnover rose 12.9 per cent to £37.7 million and a final of 2.45p (2.34p), makes 3.45p, up 15 per cent.

Property surge

English & Overseas Properties lifted pre-tax profits 55 per cent to £2.09 million in the year to end-December. Net asset value rose 20.8 per cent to 110p and earnings 24 per cent to 23.4p. A final of 2.5p makes 4.5p, up 73 per cent.

Trust steady

Lancashire and London Investment Trust's pre-tax revenue eased from £304,835 to £302,105 despite investment income up from £261,334 to £431,254 and unfranked investment income from £137,069 to £124 million. A final of 1.9p, makes 2.9p (2.75p) for the year to end-December.

Ferrari talks

Ferrari Holdings is talking with Pericom which could lead to a bid for Pericom. Ferrari is capitalized at about £25 million and Pericom at just over £3 million.

NAPF Annual Conference

Institution drawing up legal action over Arrow

By Martin Waller

At least one big institution nursing heavy losses after the Blue Arrow affair is believed to be well advanced in taking legal action against the two City firms which acted for the employment agency in its disastrous 1987 rights issue.

The affair continued to attract the attention of delegates at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Pension Funds at Eastbourne.

The NAPF is leading a small team, put together by institutional investors, aiming to reach compensation with County NatWest, the merchant bank, and UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker. County has already offered to pay up to 30p a share to some of the investors who lost out.

The broker announced ear-

lier this week, after strong pressure from the institutions, that it was returning to the negotiating table.

NAPF officers were privately trying to talk down any legal action by aggrieved shareholders — at least until their own negotiations with County and UBS Phillips & Drew are completed.

Any legal action at this stage would face formidable obstacles, the NAPF believes, not least because there are criminal prosecutions pending.

But it is thought that at an earlier meeting, called by the NAPF of the various institutional investors who had suffered over Blue Arrow, at least one indicated it was quite far advanced in drawing up a claim. Delegates were invited

to put their views on Blue Arrow yesterday when the NAPF annual report was put before the conference.

But after a cautious preamble by Mr Donald Brydon, outgoing chairman of the association's investment committee, who warned them not to "undermine or weaken your negotiating position," not a single question or comment on the affair was forthcoming.

In his review of the past year, Mr Brydon warned of the deteriorating quality of research from analysts, particularly in beta and gamma stocks, the possibility of taxation of sub-underwriting commissions and the reduction of the level of disclosure requirements in the Companies Act 1989.

Soviet reforms 'bolster rates'

Interest rates in Britain and in the US are likely to be kept high for years by the economic reform needed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, a leading economist warned the conference of the National Association of Pension Funds (Martin Waller writes).

The desperate political need to raise living standards in the Comecon countries by between 25 per cent and 30 per cent over the next 20 years would cost an estimated \$6-12 trillion and would suck in huge amounts of capital from the West, said Mr John Wellenmeyer, joint head of European equities at Morgan Stanley, the investment bank.

"I believe that the Soviet Union is feeling its way to-



Wellenmeyer warning: "High interest rates are here to stay," said Mr Wellenmeyer.

Living standards in the Soviet Union would have to

match the improvements expected in Eastern European countries, and much-needed development expenditure would therefore cost 25 per cent of the gross domestic product in Russia and its former satellites for a period of 15-20 years.

Such huge amounts of capital could not be found internally and would have to come from the West, in the form of funding to set up the process of domestic wealth creation.

"High interest rates are here to stay," said Mr Wellenmeyer. "Economies that don't save enough, the US and the UK, are going to be short of money."

Chiene chucks in WoodMac

In a surprise move, John Chiene, deputy chairman of National Westminster's investment bank, County NatWest, and deputy chairman of its securities business, County NatWest WoodMac, has resigned. Denying it was connected with the recruitment of up to 100 personnel from the collapsed Drexel Burnham Lambert business, which will effectively double the size of its US operation, Chiene returned from a trip to the US yesterday and gave in his notice. With everyone in the firm being uncharacteristically tight-lipped, Howard Macdonald, chairman and chief executive of the investment bank compounded the mystery by issuing a statement saying: "With reluctance I have accepted John Chiene's resignation. He has made a considerable contribution to the business in all his roles. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for all he has done. All of us at County NatWest wish him the very best of good fortune in the future." Scottish-born Chiene, a respected City figure renowned for his integrity and sense of fair play, began his City career in 1962 when, at the age of 25, he joined the Edinburgh firm of Wood MacKenzie which, at that time, employed just 10 people. He created its institutional broking division, was made a partner in 1964, managing partner in 1969 and senior partner when the firm opened its London office in the early 1970s. Under his guidance it

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Queen Krystyna rules

Krystyna Brzeskinski, the building analyst at Hoare Govett, has been dubbed the queen of pub games after winning an inter-analyst tournament hosted by Bardon, the aggregates and building products group in the Old Doctor Butlers Head public house in the City on Wednesday. Raising some £1,800 for cancer research in the process, more than 40 building analysts and specialist salesmen took each other on at shove ha'penny, skittles and table football — all installed on two floors of the

pub by Bardon just for the evening. "We hope it will become an annual event," says a spokesman, who let slip that it was originally intended to be held at Christmas until BFI took all their prospective guests off to Germany for a presentation. Brzeskinski, who will now have to defend her title next year, beat Jamie Stevenson, from Kleinwort Benson, in the final, by winning a game of Trivial Pursuit. The runner-up was Peter Jensen, also a building analyst, from Flemings.

became one of the best broking and research houses in the City. In the approach to Big Bang he and his fellow partners sold out to Hill Samuel, with Chiene becoming joint chief executive of the merchant bank. An ill-fated

marriage, in January 1988 the business was sold to County NatWest, with Chiene running the securities business until the middle of last year.

Fish and srips

Could this be the start of an international trend? Customers at more than 190 supermarkets across Japan will be able to toss stock certificates into their shopping carts this year along with rice and fish. Dai-ichi, the country's biggest supermarket operator, has signed a deal allowing Nippon Kyoei Securities to open branch offices in all its supermarkets. According to a spokesman, the deal will provide Nippon Kyoei with more badly-needed branches while allowing Dai-ichi customers to add over-the-counter equities to their shopping lists.



Drinking pals

Lord King, British Airways chairman, who introduced guest speaker Norman Tebbit, MP, as "that former pilot of mine" and "the union miller" — since he once flew for BOAC — was clearly on good form when he received an award for "consistently high quality" from the Invest in Britain Campaign at Claridges yesterday. Making reference to the fact that the event was sponsored by Johnnie Walker Black Label, he could not resist a series of drinking jokes. Like the man who admits the reason he distrusts camels is because he always distrusts anyone who can go for a week without a drink. Or the one who always feels drunk after one drink — but can never remember whether it is the 13th or 14th one that does it. And then there was the wife who said that after three Martinis her husband became a disgusting beast — "and after four she always passed out altogether," King quipped. Also cracking jokes at the expense of wives — his own in fact — was host Sir Norman Macfarlane, chairman of Guinness, which owns the Johnnie Walker brand. Recalling his appointment to that post "under rather dramatic circumstances" his wife was apparently far from pleased. "I told her that we owned Glenglasses — I had always had problems getting tee-off times there, but that problem has now been resolved — and Gordon's Gin, in which she has a considerable vested interest. That helped."

Carol Leonard

FOR STEERS BUT NO BULL, INVEST IN THE CHRONICLE.

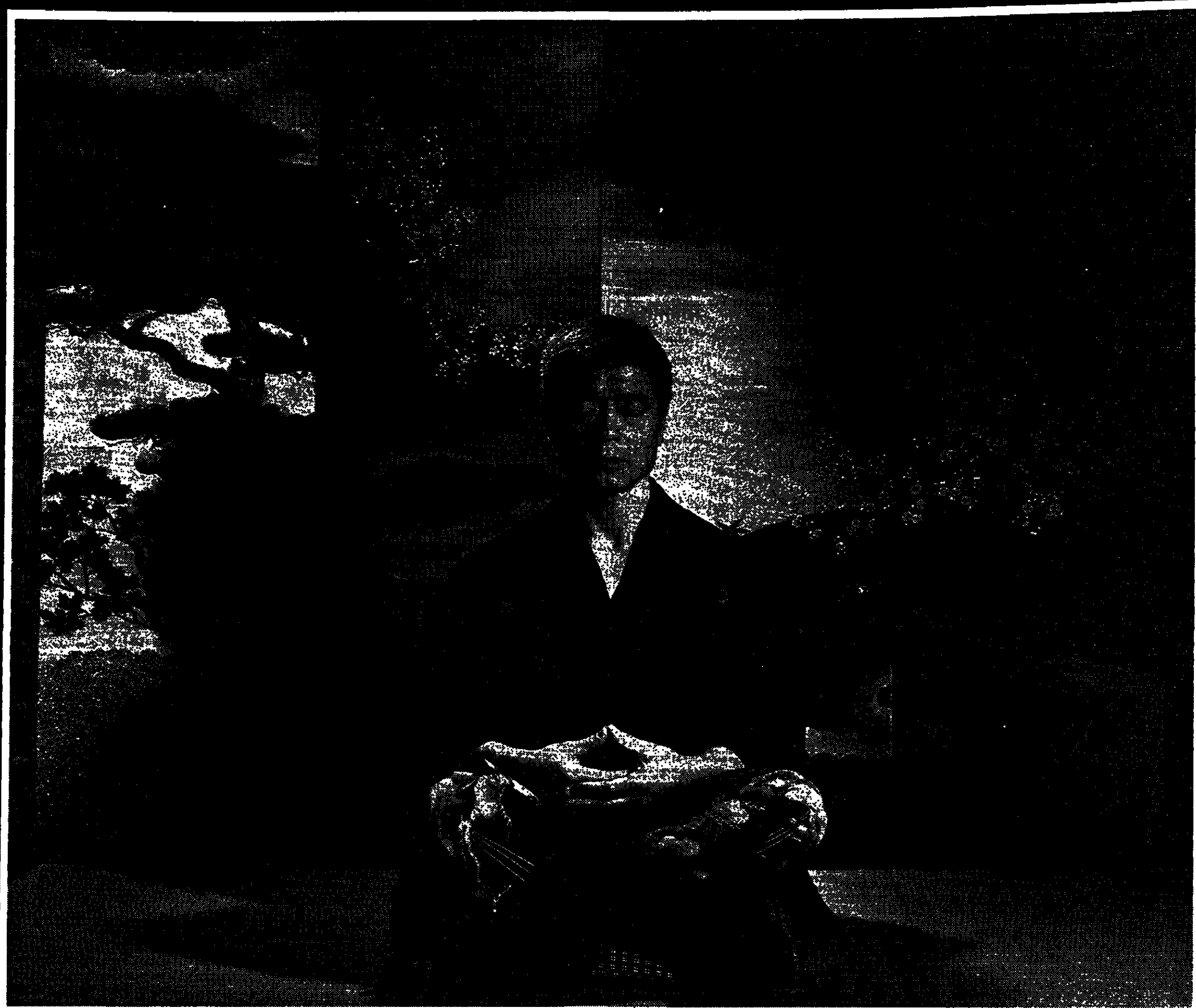
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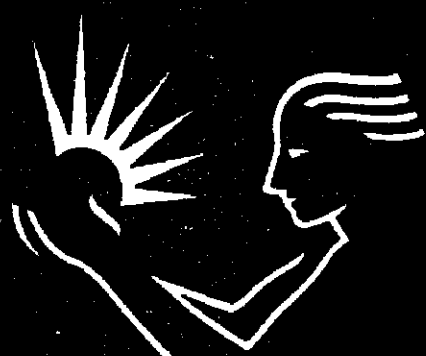
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Maxwell
Brierley
reaches

A row between
Brierley, the
entrepreneur
Maxwell, the
to a head of
meeting of
the Guinness
services group.

Mr Maxwell
15.4 per cent
expected to
against a 15.4
the company
Roo's investment
and other
down GFC's
organize its



At odds: Sir Robert Maxwell

Mysterio
eye for a

Mr Peter Gyllenhammar
question of a 5 per cent
in Colson, the home of
big group, including a
financing company, the
Swedish company
The companies are
electronic scales in Colson
Phoenix Timber and North
Sea Assets, as well as
Colson, worth \$120 million
in total. Brokers believe that
Mr Gyllenhammar has a
bought a number of other
holdings.

But little is known of the
man who, so far, has
contacts with his sister
parties to a number of
negotiations and City
are becoming open to the
pendant for some of the most
depressed shares the London
stock market has to offer.

To Stockholm's business
community, however, Mr
Gyllenhammar and his
familiar figure. He came to
prominence in the mid-1980s,
when he helped to form
Trend Invest, an investment

Forwell is
boosted
to £1.07m

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits at Forwell
Group, the office design
design group, were boosted
United Securities, which
last July, were up 100 per
percent at £1.07 million, up
year to end-December.

The figures were helped by
an 80 per cent jump in the
turnover to £11.1 million,
boosted by a £5.45 million
contribution from Forwell's
sign group which was acquired
for £2 million last February.

Earnings per share slip from
5.8p to 4.5p after interest
payments of £172,000, com-
pared with a £97,000 gain last
time. There is a final dividend
of 1.15p, and the company
will offer a scrip dividend
alternative.

Mr Michael Whelan, the
chairman, said further growth
was organic and by the
question, is planned for the
coming year. Acquisitions
may be used to enhance the
group's geographic coverage
mainly concentrated in the
South-east. The shares firm-
ed by 20 to 30p.

Airlines strike deal

Japan join

From Philip Robinson
Los Angeles

Wallo Japanese airline pas-
senger have finally become
full members of the inter-
national set after a long-
standing agreement between
116 carriers and their own
national airlines.

They can now for the first
time, obtain trouble-free com-
puter reservations round-the-
world on tickets on a one-stop
check-in basis.

Japan Airline, which once
refused to allow outsiders to
issue its tickets, had joined
Apollo, the computerized cen-
tral reservations system run
by United Airlines, to which
British Airways also belongs.

Almost
United took JAL before the
US Department of Transport
which had not the airline had
reached an international fair

Mr Stephen

550 من الأصل

Maxwell battle over Brierley's GPG bid reaches critical point

By Neil Bennett

A row between Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, and Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, comes to a head today at the annual meeting of GPG, the rump of the Guinness Flat financial services group.

Mr Maxwell, who holds a 15.4 per cent stake in GPG, is expected to lead a protest against a £55 million bid for the company from IEP, Sir Ron's investment vehicle. He had others will try to vote down GPG's request to reorganize its reserves, and pre-

vent it from paying dividends for up to five years.

Mr Maxwell is unhappy at the 17p-a-share bid for the company since it is almost 4p a share lower than its net asset value. Sir Ron has already won majority control, however, because the bid has been accepted by the consortium of banks which owns a 60.8 per cent stake.

Mr Maxwell is trying to force Sir Ron to raise the offer to other shareholders, and is supported by Lord Kissen, the group's founder, who holds 8 per cent. Both have been

buying shares in the market at up to 22p in the last few days to strengthen their position.

Mr Maxwell bought his GPG shares during the bid by Equicorp, the now collapsed New Zealand financial group, in 1987, and stands to make losses of more than £33 million at Sir Ron's offer price.

GPG's motion to reorganize its reserves needs a three-quarters majority and would allow it to make an immediate special dividend payment. The motion is predicted to fail at the meeting in the City however, and this would stop IEP taking any money out of the company until it had paid off an \$80 million deficit on distributable reserves, even though the company has estimated net cash of \$75 million and made a pre-tax profit of \$21 million last year.

Mr John Gillum, GPG's chairman, said: "The message is that keeping your shares is not for the faint-hearted."

"For the normal investor, the price of 22p in the market represents a reasonable value for the company."



At odds: Sir Ron Brierley (left) and Robert Maxwell

City's new Viking invader

Mysterious Swede with eye for a share bargain

By Our City Staff

Mr Peter Gyllenhammar's acquisition of a 5 per cent stake in Coleroll, the home furnishings group, highlights a continuing campaign by the mysterious Swedish investor. His companies now own declarable stakes in Chloride, Phoenix Timber and North Sea Assets, as well as Coleroll, worth £12.6 million in total. Brokers believe that Mr Gyllenhammar has also bought a number of smaller holdings.

But little is known of the man who, so far, has kept contacts with his chosen companies to a minimum. Managers and City analysts alike are becoming mystified by his penchant for some of the most depressed shares in the London stock market has to offer.

To Stockholm's business community, however, Mr Gyllenhammar, aged 37, is a familiar figure. He came to prominence in the mid-seventies, when he helped to found Trend Invest, an investment

and fund management group. It built a large stake in Fagersta, the troubled Swedish steel company, on recovery hopes.

Mr Gyllenhammar left Trend Invest in 1978, shortly before Fagersta's share price collapsed amid a slack steel market, and Trend failed.

In 1979, he joined Häggblom, the small Swedish stockbroking firm, as its equity analyst. He developed a brilliant reputation for identifying undervalued companies and building large stakes in them.

Mr Gyllenhammar has never been known to make an outright bid. He either takes a stake and holds it as a passive investor, or tries to get involved in a company's management. Ideally, he then sells at a large profit, sometimes to a board keen to see him go.

In 1983, he left Häggblom and joined Proventus, a quoted investment company, and continued his aggressive investing. He left after a year, amid reports of a dispute with

its owner, Mr Robert Weill, and formed Gyllenhammar and Partners, the basis for his Mercarius Group, founded last spring by a merger with Mercarius Industri.

The group, with corporate finance and industrial businesses as well as investments, has an estimated net worth of 1 billion kroner (£94.3 million). Mr Gyllenhammar has a 30.5 per cent stake.

Since the collapse of Trend Invest, Mr Gyllenhammar has stayed out of the public eye. In Sweden, many disagree with his aggressive investment style, but all recognize his skill at picking opportunities.

Mr Gyllenhammar's interest in Britain began early last year when Sweden started to abolish exchange controls. His investments here fit his typical strategy. They are in troubled companies with depressed share prices, but strong asset backing. Coleroll and the others can only sit and wait for his next move.

Forwell is boosted to £1.07m

By Philip Pangalos

Pre-tax profits at Forwell Group, the office interior design group which joined the Unlisted Securities Market last July, were ahead by 18.7 per cent at £1.07 million in the year to end-December.

The figures were helped by an 80 per cent jump in group turnover to £11.7 million, boosted by a £3.49 million contribution from Ferndale Contracts, a Surrey-based design group which was acquired for £2 million last February.

Earnings per share slipped from 5.8p to 5.5p, after interest payments of £172,000, compared with a £97,000 gain last time. There is a final dividend of 1.33p, and the company will offer a scrip dividend alternative.

Mr Michael Wheller, the chairman, said further growth, both organic and by acquisition, is planned in the coming year. Acquisitions may be used to enhance the group's geographic coverage, presently concentrated in the South-east. The shares firmed by 2p to 40p.

Funding of \$5bn for East Europe

Warsaw (Reuters) — The World Bank is likely to pump more than \$5 billion into Eastern Europe in the next three years to support economic reforms, Mr Barber Conable, the bank's president, said.

Signing agreements granting the bank's first loans to Poland totalling \$360 million, he said they would help transform economic structures, banking, industry and debt management and boost environmental protection. "I anticipate that the bank will lend over \$5 billion to our current Eastern European borrowers over the next three years — up to \$2.5 billion for Poland."

Other East European countries which are not members of the World Bank might also receive loans if they joined but needy nations in the rest of the world would not suffer as a result, he said.

"None of the World Bank's financial support for Eastern European will come at the expense of poor countries or at the expense of any of our borrowers," Mr Conable said. The two agreements for

Poland include \$260 million for industrial export development and \$100 million to boost processed food exports.

They are Poland's first loans from the World Bank since it joined in 1986. Hungary, Romania and Yugoslavia are also members and Czechoslovakia applied for membership last month.

Mr Conable made clear that further loans for Poland depend on the government keeping to its programme to switch to a market-based economy and cut 1,090 per cent annual inflation.

He said Eastern Europe must reach out for foreign investment for export markets, investment capital, technology and managerial know-how.

Mr Conable pledged help to set up social security systems as unemployment rises. He said state monopolies must be ended to allow Eastern Europe's new political freedom to spill into the economy.

The World Bank, he said, was also ready to support environmental measures in Eastern Europe.

Airlines strike deal on computer check-in

Japan joins the jet set

From Philip Robinson
Los Angeles

Wealthy Japanese airline passengers have finally become full members of the international jet set after a long-awaited agreement between US carriers and their own national airlines.

They can now, for the first time, obtain trouble-free computer co-ordinated round-the-world air tickets on a one-stop check-in basis.

Japan Airline, which once refused to allow outsiders to issue its tickets, has joined Apollo, the computerized central reservations system run by United Airlines, to which British Airways also belongs.

Almost two years ago United took JAL before the US Department of Transport which held that the airline had breached an international fair



Wolf: model for co-operation competition act by refusing to permit Apollo to issue its air tickets. Action was deferred to allow the two more time to reach agreement. Another Japanese airline, All Nippon Airways, joined the system earlier this year.

Mr Stephen Wolf, United's

chairman, said: "We have now developed a model for international co-operation on computerized reservation systems which allows us to maintain the cordial relationships with both carriers."

The new deal will allow Japanese airline passengers to book a string of tickets throughout the world with a one-stop check-in at any of the 600 Japanese travel agents linked to the system, part of the worldwide network of 10,000 agents in 40 countries.

British Airways' links with Apollo have meant the one-stop check-in has been available in Britain for about two years. In turn, Apollo is linked with Galileo in Europe and Australia and Gemini in Canada, offering information on 700 international, domestic and regional airlines.

EC frees public works buying

From Michael Binyon
Brussels

European Community ministers have agreed to open their huge domestic markets in the water, transport, energy and telecommunications sectors to competitive tendering from throughout Europe, marking the first significant success for the Irish presidency of the EC.

These sectors, a last bastion of national protection and until now shielded from EC competition, will be opened to any EC contractor in nine member countries from January 1, 1993. Greece, Spain and Portugal asked for extra time and will not have to open up their public procurement markets until 1996, in Spain's case, and 1997 in the case of the other two.

Mr John Redwood, junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, expressed delight at the agreement. He said that Britain should gain substantially because British companies would be able to tender for contracts throughout the EC, with France a particularly attractive potential market.

Britain had already opened its markets through privatization, although the number of foreign tenders was relatively modest so far, he said.

The ministers also agreed a compromise on a "Buy Europe" clause, the main stumbling block for months.



John Redwood: British industry should gain from EC's opening public works purchasing on measures to open up the energy market.

This aims to stop third countries, such as the United States and Japan, gaining too much from the liberalization and allows public authorities to ignore tenders from outside the EC if they are no more than 3 per cent cheaper than the best bid from within it.

France was the only country to oppose this, seeking stronger protection against non-EC nations. Britain and the 10 other countries said that this would send a wrong signal at

the present delicate stage of talks in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on opening these sectors.

Under thresholds agreed yesterday, all public works contracts exceeding Ecu5 million (£3 million) must be open to EC tender. For telecommunications, the figures are Ecu600,000, and for general and electricity supplies Ecu400,000. The purchase by utilities of fuel to make energy is excluded pending progress

on measures to open up the energy market.

Public procurement accounts for 15 per cent of the total market in the EC, costing about Ecu592 billion. The decision opens all of it to competition, at a saving to public utilities estimated last year at Ecu17.2 billion.

Ministers also discussed opening up public services. This is harder to implement, because services depend, more than goods, on relationships.

Soaring Torday on course for float

By Matthew Bond

Full-year results from Torday & Cartisle, the diversified engineering group, show the company making strong progress towards its long-planned stock market quote.

Pre-tax profit jumped 105 per cent to £3.2 million for the year to last December on turnover up 90 per cent at £46.7 million.

Earnings per share have increased by a more modest 36 per cent, reflecting the fact that the flotation will trigger the conversion of the preference shares used to buy Oldham Signs, the commercial sign manufacturer, for £9.4 million in 1988.

The dividend is being increased by 79 per cent to 12.5p (7.0p).

Shares in Torday & Cartisle have been traded on the Granville exchange since 1978 and are now 85 per cent in institutional hands.

Under Mr Paul Torday, the chairman, it has been run on full public company lines since 1983.

The float, being handled by Granville, is expected within the next month and should value the company at about £25 million.

Business welcomes policy change on South Africa

By Colin Campbell

South Africa's pressing need, should sanctions be lifted, is in the field of banking, economists said in response to the Government's statement on new investment in South Africa.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said on Tuesday that Britain would unilaterally lift its ban on new investments following South Africa's political changes, notably the release of Mr Nelson Mandela and President De Klerk's apartheid re-

forms. The change in British policy was welcomed in both UK and South African business circles, although analysts noted that other sanction measures covering coal, iron and steel, the import of Kruggerands, and arms remain "on the books."

They added that because of the pace of disinvestment from South Africa, which had taken place in the 1980s, there were only a handful of British companies with significant investments in the country.

They were only likely to commit

fresh funds to South Africa once the political and economic outlook was clearer.

Meanwhile, potential first-time investors in South Africa would want to wait for clearer indications of the African National Congress' economic policies.

Mr Mandela recently repeated ANC policy on nationalization of banks and the mining industry — a threat which has left South African and foreign investors confused.

While a higher British commercial

profile would be welcomed by South African business circles, it was more strategically important for the country to be re-admitted to international banking circles, Mr Gavin Relly, chairman of Anglo American Corporation, said last week.

Lord Marsh, chairman of the British Industry Committee on South Africa Limited — representing 30 major British companies — said South Africa was now more than ever in need of international investment to aid economic growth.

GULF INTERNATIONAL BANK B.S.C. 1989 RESULTS

Underlying strength in trading performance with capital increase supporting LDC debt provision

Gulf International Bank B.S.C. has added US\$725 million to its provisions against troubled LDC debt and as a result recorded a Net Loss for the calendar year of US\$692.5 million. Despite the severe impact of the non-payment of interest by certain LDC debtors the bank reported satisfactory profits at the operating level of US\$32.5 million. Operating results included a strong trade finance performance with Other Net Operating Income increasing by 35 per cent to US\$31.8 million. Total expenses rose marginally to US\$53.1 million due to continued cost control. Total Assets grew by 7.5% to US\$9.9 billion and the capital was increased by US\$359.2 million.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	1989 US \$'000	1988 US \$'000
Net (Loss)/Income	(692,493)	45,561
Operating Income	32,507	45,561
Gross Income	86,997	99,416
Total Expenses	53,056	52,177
Shareholders' Equity	392,537	725,826
Total Assets	9,892,973	9,203,544
Loans	5,110,188	5,081,725
Deposits	8,766,599	7,724,378



Capital increase

In support of the substantial increase in provisions the Share Capital has been raised by US\$359.2 million to stand at US\$1,001.1 million at the year end. After the capital increase and the loss for the year Shareholders' Equity amounted to US\$392.5 million. The large increase in provisions has had the effect of substantially improving overall asset quality. As a

A substantial rise in LDC debt provisions

"Over the year the LDC debt situation has further deteriorated. By our provisioning action I believe that we have put the problem behind us and we are now free to concentrate fully on the productive development of the Bank." Ghazi M. Abdul-Jawad, General Manager.

The Bank's provisions against all troubled LDC debt now compare favourably with those established by the more conservative international banks and are comfortably in excess of regulatory requirements.



result of the capital increase and the improvement in asset quality the Bank's capital ratios remain adequate.

Future plans

The Bank will continue to emphasise its trade finance capabilities and the provision of project finance to support the expansion of the Gulf region's industrial base. Islamic banking activities, corporate finance, treasury-related services and asset-based lending are identified as important elements in the bank's drive towards greater diversification of earnings.

"With the recent increase in oil prices being sustained we envisage an extended period of economic growth and a continued upturn in confidence in the Gulf region. I therefore believe GIB is well positioned to benefit from the improving business conditions."

Ghazi M. Abdul-Jawad, General Manager.

If you would like a copy of the Bank's 1989 Annual Report to be published in March, please write to: Gulf International Bank, Al-Dowali Building, P.O. Box 1017, Manama, Bahrain.

Investors split over BOM legal action

By Jeremy Andrews

A split has emerged among the shareholders of BOM, the former penny stock whose board announced in December that it planned to sell its main asset, a 420-acre development site at Kingsnorth, in Kent, to a private company.

Although DTI inspectors have been appointed to investigate BOM, Mr Nigel Chapman, a business consultant and former double glazing manufacturer, is attempting to raise money from shareholders for an action to block the sale.

Mr Chapman said the DTI had confirmed that Mr Nicholas Ridley, Trade Secretary, had no powers to freeze or block the sale, although the DTI may bring civil proceedings in the light of the inspectors' findings.

Mr Chapman believes more immediate action is necessary to prevent the sale being completed on March 31.

Although he has contacted the BOM Shareholders Action Committee, whose lobbying led to the inspectors' appointment, Mr Chapman has decided to launch his own campaign to raise the estimated £250,000 legal costs of trying to stop the sale.

His solicitors have written to certain BOM shareholders asking for support. Mr Chapman calculates that legal expenses will require a contribution of between 1p to 1p per share.

Mr John Welland, secretary to the established committee, said members felt the best approach was to assist the DTI inspectors. A 50-page report on the Kingsnorth site had been submitted to the inspectors, whom he hoped to meet next week.

When the going gets tough...

Family Money tomorrow looks at the new round of mortgage rate rises, and reviews some of the best deals for savers with cash to spare.

There is also help for property owners looking for new ways to sell their home, and advice on choosing the best personal pension.

With new Business Expansion Schemes appearing by the day, Family Money looks at some of the deals on offer.

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Saatchi falls to new low as City concern mounts

Shares in Saatchi & Saatchi, the world's best known advertising agency, tumbled by a further 20p to a low of 182p as the City became increasingly worried about its prospects.

Saatchi & Saatchi's fall from grace has been dramatic. At the height of its fame in 1986, its shares were changing hands at more than 700p each. The group had already been credited with steering Mrs Thatcher and the Conservative Party to one election victory and it was busily preparing to make it a double.

But, since then, the group's fortunes have been in steady decline. Saatchi & Saatchi expanded into the US with the acquisition of Ted Bates. But things turned sour with the loss of a number of key members of staff and big-name clients. Profits were hit and rising interest rates and the slowdown in the economy have only added to its problems.

Saatchi & Saatchi published its annual accounts this week. They made grim reading. Debt in the current year is expected to reach £250 million and there is a £177 million convertible rights issue, made in 1988, still overhanging.

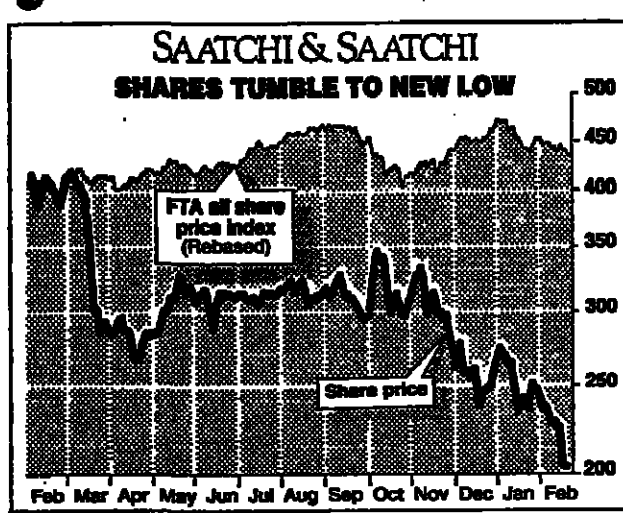
On top of this, the group has to find a further £100 million for deferred payments on various acquisitions and has so far failed to find a buyer for its consultancy division.

With more than £500 million worth of liabilities, and pre-tax profits of only £65 million pencilled in by analysts for the current year, brokers are taking an increasingly bearish view. On Wednesday, County NatWest Woodmace, the broker, advised its clients to sell.

Elsewhere in the advertising sector, the shares of VPL, the advertising and PR agency which used to trade under the name of Valin Pollen, slumped 9p to a low of 17p.

The group recently confirmed market fears by issuing a profits warning. On Wednesday night, James Capel, the broker, placed 2 million shares at about the 16p mark — a substantial discount to the market price. Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, has added to the group's misery by sharply downgrading its estimate of group profits from £4.1 million to £200,000 for the current year.

Mr Brian Sturgess, an analyst at BZW, says that the acquisition of the Carter Organisation has turned out badly. He says that this, combined with high interest rates, rising overheads, staff departures and a possible



downturn in advertising revenue to 1975 levels has taken its toll of group profits which reached £14.1 million last year.

The rest of the equity market managed to claw back some of its recent losses, helped by acceptable performance overnight in New York and Tokyo and full-year figures from ICI which were in line with expectations. ICI rose 14p to £10.41 after reporting pre-tax profits up 4 per cent to £1.52 billion despite signs of a downturn in the final quarter.

Turnover in the market remained subdued with fewer than 400 million shares traded. Investors round the world are still worried by the threat of high interest rates, inflation and recession. The

FTSE 100 index opened firmly but was 8 points down ahead of the profits news from ICI. It later rallied to close 9.5 higher at 2,269.2, aided by a good start to trading on Wall Street. The narrower FT index of top 30 shares also rose 6.0 points to 1,789.8.

Bond markets round the world remained nervous with Government securities in London left nursing losses of up to 1/4%.

Full-year figures from the Midland Bank held few surprises and the price ending 4p better at 351p despite reporting a pre-tax loss of £261 million, against a profit of £693 million, after making provisions of more than £1 billion for Third World and other debts.

National Westminster enjoyed some selective support under the lead of Anglian, 4 1/2p better at 176p. There were also rises for Northern, 2p to 185p, Thames, 1 1/2p to 166p and Yorkshire, 1p to 180p. While Southern closed unchanged at 165p, as did South West at 189p and Wessex at 182p, there were falls in the West. West 1p to 152p, Severn Trent, 1 1/2p to 152p and Welsh, 2p to 188p.

STC advanced 9p to 265p on revised talk that someone wants to buy a sizeable holding in its ICL subsidiary, Britain's biggest computer manufacturer. In the past few months, there was talk of a full bid from Olivetti, the Italian group, and Fujitsu of Japan. Now the spotlight has switched to US Micro systems, the US technology group.

Racal Electronics firmed up to 223p after paying £22 million for a 20 per cent holding in Satellite Information Services. Racal has issued 10 million new shares, which were quickly placed by Smith New Court, the broker, at 221p each to fund the deal.

Michael Clark

Bank, which reported this week, rose 4p to 349p, while Lloyds Bank, reporting today, hardened 3p to 296p. Barclays Bank also firmed 3p to 556p.

Among the leaders, British Aerospace recovered a fall to close all-square at 502p despite a downgrading of profit estimates by Nomura Securities, the Japanese securities house. American investors were big buyers of British Steel, 1 1/2p better at 133p and buyers at the cheap end enabled BICC to rally from a low with a rise of 7p to 408p. The group has been the subject of at least three profit downgradings this week because of its exposure to the weak Australian dollar.

TVS took a turn for the worst in after-hours trading, losing 22p to 88p. Worries about the dividend were given as the reason for the setback but dealers believe that one market-maker has taken a large line of stock on to his book and has been attempting to sell this.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries eased 3p to 314p ahead of the trading news today from Elders DXI, the Australian brewery which owns a 23 per cent stake. It was hoped that Elders would use this opportunity to reveal proposals for the reconstruction of the company which includes the disposal of the S&N holding. But Elders says that it does not intend to make any statement.

The privatized water stocks enjoyed some selective support under the lead of Anglian, 4 1/2p better at 176p. There were also rises for Northern, 2p to 185p, Thames, 1 1/2p to 166p and Yorkshire, 1p to 180p. While Southern closed unchanged at 165p, as did South West at 189p and Wessex at 182p, there were falls in the West. West 1p to 152p, Severn Trent, 1 1/2p to 152p and Welsh, 2p to 188p.

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Racal Electronics firmed up to 223p after paying £22 million for a 20 per cent holding in Satellite Information Services. Racal has issued 10 million new shares, which were quickly placed by Smith New Court, the broker, at 221p each to fund the deal.

STOCK MARKET

Bank, which reported this week, rose 4p to 349p, while Lloyds Bank, reporting today, hardened 3p to 296p. Barclays Bank also firmed 3p to 556p.

Among the leaders, British Aerospace recovered a fall to close all-square at 502p despite a downgrading of profit estimates by Nomura Securities, the Japanese securities house. American investors were big buyers of British Steel, 1 1/2p better at 133p and buyers at the cheap end enabled BICC to rally from a low with a rise of 7p to 408p. The group has been the subject of at least three profit downgradings this week because of its exposure to the weak Australian dollar.

TVS took a turn for the worst in after-hours trading, losing 22p to 88p. Worries about the dividend were given as the reason for the setback but dealers believe that one market-maker has taken a large line of stock on to his book and has been attempting to sell this.

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TOKYO

Share prices, which on Wednesday suffered their biggest fall since 1987's crash, rallied to close slightly higher. Receding fears about an immediate rise in Japanese interest rates, coupled with bargain-hunting, restored some confidence.

Overnight resilience in London and New York also encouraged investors.

The Nikkei index finished 92.51 higher at 35,826.84 after a roller-coaster ride. It had sunk by 1,161 points on Wednesday, its third biggest fall ever. The market was flung around all day by futures-linked program trading, with low volume amplifying the price swings.

The market climbed more than 400 points in the first 15 minutes. At its worst, it sank 650 below Wednesday's close in the last half-hour.

Support at about the 35,000 level and renewed interest from institutional investors who felt the market may have

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Portfolio

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

[illegible][illegible]

● Ex dividend ● Ex all ● Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed ● Price at suspension ● Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ● Pre-merger figures ● Forecast earnings ● Ex other ● Ex rights ● Ex scrip ● share split ● Tax-free ... No significant data.

[illegible][illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible][illegible]

Low	Close	Vol	Open	High
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T-S 100		Previous open interest 24588		Three month EC		Previous open interest 2738	
Mar 90	232.0	237.1	232.2	237.1	88.9	88.7	88.9
Jun 90	232.0	237.1	232.2	237.1	88.9	88.7	88.9
Three Month Eurodollar		Previous open interest 15267		US Treasury		Previous open interest 6268	
Mar 90	84.33	84.34	84.31	84.31	92.08	92.08	92.07
Jun 90	84.33	84.34	84.31	84.31	92.08	92.08	92.07
Three Month Eurodollar		Previous open interest 4377		Long Ill		Previous open interest 4786	
Mar 90	91.58	91.60	91.58	91.58	85.23	85.23	85.22
Jun 90	91.58	91.60	91.58	91.58	85.23	85.23	85.22
Three Month Euro DM		Previous open interest 5242		Japanese Govt		Previous open interest 1177	
Mar 90	91.40	91.40	91.36	91.37	95.42	95.42	95.41
Jun 90	91.40	91.40	91.36	91.37	95.42	95.42	95.41
COMMODITIES		Previous open interest 8909		Japanese Govt		Previous open interest 9825	
Mar 90	90.28	90.30	90.28	90.28	95.42	95.42	95.41
Jun 90	90.28	90.30	90.28	90.28	95.42	95.42	95.41

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The secretary of

Statutory caravan includes chalet

Wyre Forest District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Griffiths, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Lowry (Speeches February 22)

The word "caravan" in a planning application or grant of planning permission *prima facie* bore the meaning given by section 29(1) of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960, thereby including a chalet which, although lacking wheels, was capable of being moved.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the secretary of state from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Taylor and Lord Justice Mann (1989) 1 LGR 444) upholding enforcement notices issued by Wyre Forest District Council in respect of a chalet at a caravan site at Wolverley, Hereford, owned by the appellants, Alvens Caravans (Estates) Ltd.

The secretary of state's inspector had set aside the notices and, on the council's appeal under section 246 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, Mr David Widdicombe, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, had upheld his decision.

Mr John Laws and Mr Ian Ashford-Thorn for the secretary of state; Mr Clifford Joseph and Mr David Brownbill for the site owners; Mr John Macdonald, QC and Mr Timothy Jones for the council.

LORD LOWRY said that at the time of the planning application the relevant Act was the Town and Country Planning Act 1947. The Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1968 (SI 1968 No 1476) had amended the 1947 Act by inserting in article 2(1) thereof the 1960 Act definitions of "caravan" and "caravan site".

On November 16, 1960 the site owners' predecessors in title had made an application to the planning authority for "Continuation of use of existing caravan site with revised layout".

On December 5, 1961 permission was granted subject to conditions, *inter alia*, that the "consent relates to the siting of a caravan only and no fresh structure shall be erected on the site without the specific consent of the planning authority".

In June 1985 the site owners had erected a chalet structure on the site, which, as was common ground, was a caravan within the meaning of the 1960 Act but was not a caravan within the ordinary meaning of that word.

The council had served two enforcement notices requiring the removal of the chalet on the grounds that it had been erected in breach of the condition in the 1961 planning permission and had been erected without planning permission.

The site owners had appealed against the enforcement notices on the issue of whether the planning permission allowed the erection of "caravans" (up to a maximum of 205) as defined by the 1960 Act, in which event the erection of the chalet was lawful.

LORD JUSTICE Nourse said that a mortgagee was allowed to recover the principal out of the mortgaged property for all costs, charges and expenses reasonably and properly incurred in enforcing or preserving his security.

In regard to such proceedings three propositions might be stated:

1 The mortgagee's costs of proceedings between himself and the mortgagor or his surety were allowable.

2 Allowable also were the mortgagee's costs of proceedings between himself and a third party where what was impugned was the title to the estate. There the mortgagee acted for the benefit of the equity of redemption as much as for that of the security.

3 But where a third party impugned the title to the mortgage, or the enforcement or exercise of some right or power accruing to the mortgagee, the mortgagee's costs of the proceedings, even though they were reasonably and properly incurred, were not allowable.

The first and second propositions had together been called the general rule. The third, which applied to the present case, had been called the exception to it.

The authorities which supported the exception were those of Sir William Page Wood, Vice-Chancellor, in *Owen v Croach* (1878) 5 W 425, *Parker v Watkins* (1859) 133 and Mr Justice Eve in *In re Smith's Mortgage* (1931) 2 Ch 168.

The essential facts of *Parker v Watkins* were very close to those of the present case.

Mr Ronald Jaffa for the applicant; Mr Robert Alun Jones, QC and Mr Philip Singer for the respondent and the Governor of Penitentiary Prison.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said the applicant, a Trinidad national, had been committed to Penitentiary Prison by a Metropolitan Magistrate on February 18, 1989 to await extradition to the USA.

In April 1977 he had been sentenced to four years imprisonment in the United States for drug, interstate transportation and conspiracy. He had been due to begin serving the sentence in March 1978.

Before that date the applicant claimed that he had been allowed to go to his native Trinidad to arrange accommodation for his wife and children.

According to him, when he had applied for a visa to re-enter the US his application was denied because a conviction for a felony he was ineligible for re-entry. He had not since been back to the US.

The extradition request had been badly delayed. *Prima facie*, the US authorities had contributed substantially to the delay.

Above the court, interested where the defendant had been prejudiced in the preparation or conduct of his defence by unjustified delay on the part of the prosecution, *Re Derby County Council v Derby County Football Club* (1985) 80 Cr App Rep 164.

It had not been authoritatively decided whether abuse of the process applied in the magistrates' court in extradition proceedings.

His Lordship could not accept that the doctrine applied to conviction cases. There was no precedent for its application in that kind of case.

MR JUSTICE NOLAN, concurring, said that the procedure laid down for conviction cases by section 10 of the Extradition Act 1870 left no room for the application of the doctrine of abuse of process.

Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest had observed in *Re Government of Greece v Governor of Brixton Prison* (1971) AC 250, 279-280 that it was not for the

magistrate to decide whether the fugitive criminal would in fact be surrendered. That was for the secretary of state.

Lord Morris said: "If the magistrate finds that the prisoner was convicted of an extradition crime, then having considered the evidence in accordance with a precise statutory direction) the magistrate is under a statutory duty forthwith to send to the secretary of state a certificate of the commitment".

In his Lordship's view that was still the law prior to the 1989 Act.

Solicitors: Halpin-Jarman Partnership, Sittingbourne; CPS, Fraud and Bankruptcy Division.

Although flexibility was intended, the secretary of state needed to be able to give directions to achieve financial control. The Act had been amended and while the secretary of state was now required to lay an annual report on the social fund before Parliament, no steps had been taken to curtail his powers to give directions.

His Lordship's conclusion was that the secretary of state's power was to give such directions as were necessary for the proper "control and management" of the social fund so as to enable it to meet the needs of applicants. The power did not, however, extend to whatever the secretary of state considered reasonable, the court being entitled to determine the question of reasonableness.

Guidance, which need not be followed, issued in such cases as to be in effect mandatory, was *ultra vires*.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when making declarations in applications for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for Social Services refusing Mr Samuel Stitt's application for a payment from the fund and of the determinations of the Social Security Fund Inspector in Mr Glen Sherwin.

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The secretary of state and the site owners had contended that, by virtue of sections 14(1), 21, 22 and 29(1) of the 1960 Act and the amendments introduced into the 1950 Order, with effect from August 29, 1960 the expressions "caravan" and "caravan site", when used in planning applications and permissions, had (at least *prima facie*) the meaning assigned to them by the 1960 Act.

They had supported that argument by pointing to the close link between general planning control and the 1960 Act.

The council had argued that the word "caravan" in a planning application submitted, or in a permission granted, at any time either before or after August 29, 1960 *prima facie* meant a caravan in its ordinary, popular sense and that structure shall be erected on the site without the specific consent of the planning authority".

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2 Allowable also were the mortgagee's costs of proceedings between himself and a third party where what was impugned was the title to the estate. There the mortgagee acted for the benefit of the equity of redemption as much as for that of the security.

3 But where a third party impugned the title to the mortgage, or the enforcement or exercise of some right or power accruing to the mortgagee, the mortgagee's costs of the proceedings, even though they were reasonably and properly incurred, were not allowable.

or only allowed the siting of caravans in the ordinary sense of that word.

The secretary of state and the site owners had contended that, by virtue of sections 14(1), 21, 22 and 29(1) of the 1960 Act and the amendments introduced into the 1950 Order, with effect from August 29, 1960 the expressions "caravan" and "caravan site", when used in planning applications and permissions, had (at least *prima facie*) the meaning assigned to them by the 1960 Act.

They had supported that argument by pointing to the close link between general planning control and the 1960 Act.

The council had argued that the word "caravan" in a planning application submitted, or in a permission granted, at any time either before or after August 29, 1960 *prima facie* meant a caravan in its ordinary, popular sense and that structure shall be erected on the site without the specific consent of the planning authority".

In June 1985 the site owners had erected a chalet structure on the site, which, as was common ground, was a caravan within the meaning of the 1960 Act but was not a caravan within the ordinary meaning of that word.

The council had served two enforcement notices requiring the removal of the chalet on the grounds that it had been erected in breach of the condition in the 1961 planning permission and had been erected without planning permission.

The site owners had appealed against the enforcement notices on the issue of whether the planning permission allowed the erection of "caravans" (up to a maximum of 205) as defined by the 1960 Act, in which event the erection of the chalet was lawful.

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The first and second propositions had together been called the general rule. The third, which applied to the present case, had been called the exception to it.

The authorities which supported the exception were those of Sir William Page Wood, Vice-Chancellor, in *Owen v Croach* (1878) 5 W 425, *Parker v Watkins* (1859) 133 and Mr Justice Eve in *In re Smith's Mortgage* (1931) 2 Ch 168.

The essential facts of *Parker v Watkins* were very close to those of the present case.

Mr Ronald Jaffa for the applicant; Mr Robert Alun Jones, QC and Mr Philip Singer for the respondent and the Governor of Penitentiary Prison.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said the applicant, a Trinidad national, had been committed to Penitentiary Prison by a Metropolitan Magistrate on February 18, 1989 to await extradition to the USA.

In April 1977 he had been sentenced to four years imprisonment in the United States for drug, interstate transportation and conspiracy. He had been due to begin serving the sentence in March 1978.

Before that date the applicant claimed that he had been allowed to go to his native Trinidad to arrange accommodation for his wife and children.

According to him, when he had applied for a visa to re-enter the US his application was denied because a conviction for a felony he was ineligible for re-entry. He had not since been back to the US.

The extradition request had been badly delayed. *Prima facie*, the US authorities had contributed substantially to the delay.

Above the court, interested where the defendant had been prejudiced in the preparation or conduct of his defence by unjustified delay on the part of the prosecution, *Re Derby County Council v Derby County Football Club* (1985) 80 Cr App Rep 164.

It had not been authoritatively decided whether abuse of the process applied in the magistrates' court in extradition proceedings.

His Lordship could not accept that the doctrine applied to conviction cases. There was no precedent for its application in that kind of case.

MR JUSTICE NOLAN, concurring, said that the procedure laid down for conviction cases by section 10 of the Extradition Act 1870 left no room for the application of the doctrine of abuse of process.

Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest had observed in *Re Government of Greece v Governor of Brixton Prison* (1971) AC 250, 279-280 that it was not for the

magistrate to decide whether the fugitive criminal would in fact be surrendered. That was for the secretary of state.

Lord Morris said: "If the magistrate finds that the prisoner was convicted of an extradition crime, then having considered the evidence in accordance with a precise statutory direction) the magistrate is under a statutory duty forthwith to send to the secretary of state a certificate of the commitment".

In his Lordship's view that was still the law prior to the 1989 Act.

Solicitors: Halpin-Jarman Partnership, Sittingbourne; CPS, Fraud and Bankruptcy Division.

Although flexibility was intended, the secretary of state needed to be able to give directions to achieve financial control. The Act had been amended and while the secretary of state was now required to lay an annual report on the social fund before Parliament, no steps had been taken to curtail his powers to give directions.

His Lordship's conclusion was that the secretary of state's power was to give such directions as were necessary for the proper "control and management" of the social fund so as to enable it to meet the needs of applicants. The power did not, however, extend to whatever the secretary of state considered reasonable, the court being entitled to determine the question of reasonableness.

Guidance, which need not be followed, issued in such cases as to be in effect mandatory, was *ultra vires*.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when making declarations in applications for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for Social Services refusing Mr Samuel Stitt's application for a payment from the fund and of the determinations of the Social Security Fund Inspector in Mr Glen Sherwin.

In the *Social Fund Manual*: "The secretary of state directs

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Court will not aid disreputable deal

Wilton Group plc v Abrams and Others
Before Mr Justice Scott (Judgment February 21)

A court of equity would not assist parties to enforce an agreement for the sale of shares in a public limited company which purported to confer a service contract on the purchaser — such agreements were commercially distasteful.

Mr Justice Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster, so held in the Chancery Division in

(i) dismissing an application by Wilton Group plc in its action against Daniel Abrams, Feldspar Ltd, Jonathan Michael Willis, Samuelson and John Elliot Needelman, that an interlocutory injunction granted *ex parte* by Mr Justice Knox be continued, restraining the defendants from selling certain shares in Cowan de Groot plc otherwise than to Wilton; and

(ii) granting applications (to which Mr Abrams and Feldspar were respondents) by six of the seven trustees of the second action, Mr Samuelson, three Jersey-resident trustees of a discretionary settlement made by him, de Groot and Wilton, to compel the first action to proceed before Mr Justice Knox on January 24, 1990 relating to 3.8 million shares in de Groot.

Mr Needelman had been joined as a defendant, at his own request, in the first action. Mr Justice Knox and in the second by Mr Justice Scott.

Mr David Chivers for Wilton; Mr Lawrence Cohen for Mr Abrams and Feldspar Ltd; Mr Richard McCombe, QC and Mr Robert Powell-Jones for Mr Samuelson; Mr John Brisby for

the trustees; Mr Philip Gyllon for de Groot; Mr Brian Green for Mr Needelman.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that over 1988 and 1989 Mr Samuelson had procured the purchase, by the trustees of a settlement of 3.8 million shares in de Groot at a price of about £2.3 million.

That sum had been funded as to about £500,000 by a loan from Mr Samuelson, as to £690,000 by a loan from Mr Ferriday (then one of the trustees) the balance being made up by a bank overdraft secured by a charge on the shares.

Mr Ferriday was now a fugitive from justice, it being claimed by Eagle Trust plc that he had stolen from it a very large sum of money of which the £690,000 he had contributed was a part.

After the trustees' purchase of the de Groot shares, Mr Samuelson had become chairman of its board of directors and Mr Needelman, his brother-in-law, had become a non-executive director.

The trustees, however, pressed for reduction of the trustees' overdraft, and in December 1989 Mr Samuelson, needing to sell the shares, began negotiations with Mr Abrams and the other trustees to the appointment of certain individuals to the board?

Each of those matters was for the board of directors of de Groot to decide. In seeking to obtain for himself a service contract and to the appointment of certain individuals to the board?

He and they had denied either actual authority or any holding-out, but his Lordship thought Mr Abrams had an arguable case on that aspect of his action.

Would the court enforce the terms of Mr Abrams' agreement relating to Mr Samuelson's service contract and to the appointment of certain individuals to the board?

Each of those matters was for the board of directors of de Groot to decide. In seeking to obtain for himself a service contract and to the appointment of certain individuals to the board?

MOTORING

Lotus flowers in a clash of the sports

The Lotus Elan will spearhead the British challenge for modern sports car supremacy

A classical confrontation of motoring styles, which pits East against West, will take place in the next few weeks. It is a clash between a tiny specialist firm trading on its reputation for pioneering technology and "Britishness" and a mighty Japanese company with a quick eye for market position and an ability to copy the best of the West.

Lotus is introducing the new Elan, which promises to be one of the most sought-after cars of the year. Production is sold out 18 months in advance and the orders are still rolling in.

But the launch of the little sports car will be met within days by a challenge from Japan — and what a challenge it is, too.

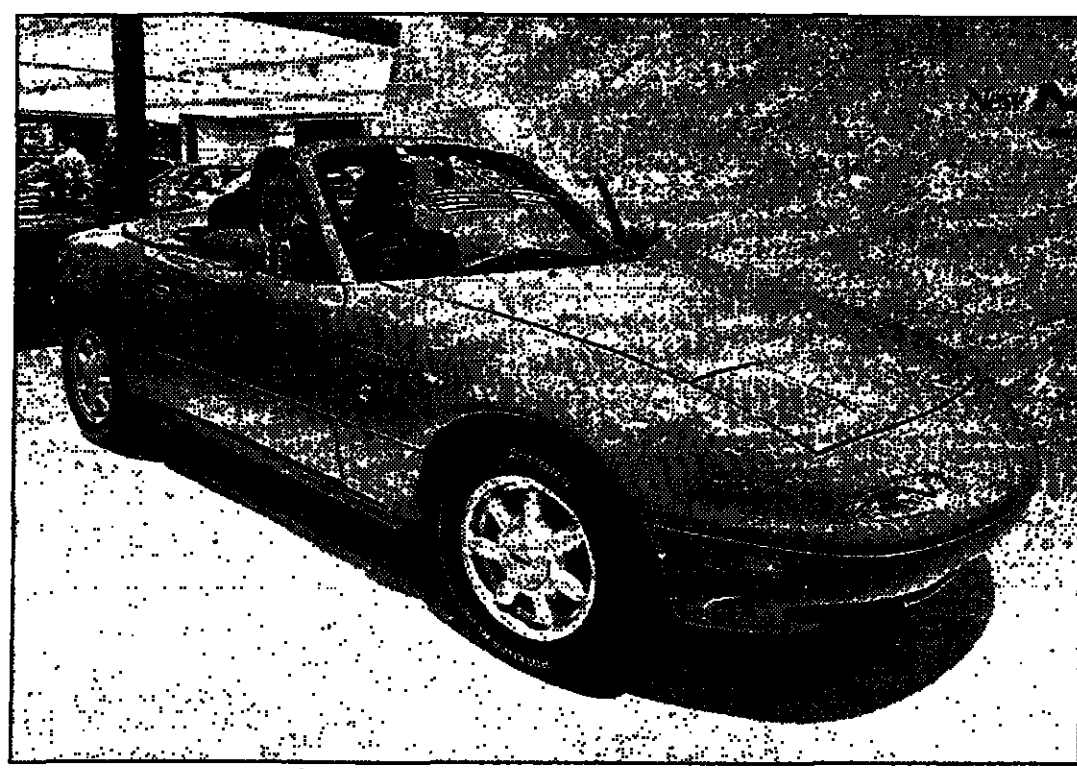
On March 14, Mazda will launch the MX-5, a car which has already taken the United States by storm with its "Back to the Future" combination of modern engineering and classic Sixties styling. The queues are also forming for the MX-5, signalling the start of a head-to-head battle between East and West.

A decade ago, the confrontation would have been one-sided as a Wightman Cup match, with the Japanese wiping the floor with their flabby British competition.

But Lotus, secure under the wing of the world's biggest car company, General Motors, is fitter and stronger, and is heralding a return to an era of exhilarating motoring which appeared lost to a generation missing the delights of mass-produced sports cars.

The tiny two-seater is well and truly back. Porsche and Ferrari have thrived, but only by providing exotic for the seriously rich. For under £20,000, choice has been restricted to "hot hatches" and bearded saloons masquerading as sports options.

The rot set in more than a decade ago at the sprawling BL conglomerate, the glum face of British motoring, which scrapped Triumph, with its Stag and Spitfire, and then, in 1980, closed MG.



The Mazda MX-5: nostalgia for the Sixties has not stood in the way of modern dynamics and performance

I was love at first sight. I admit to being swept off my feet by the most glamorous little car coming out of the British market.

With the MX-5, Mazda has achieved a remarkable combination of pure nostalgia and high-tech wizardry.

Ironically, it was the Lotus Elan of the Sixties, exemplifying care-free, open-top motoring, which provided the inspiration for the MX-5. Toshikazu Hirai, the man behind the Mazda, makes no secret of the fact that his little two-seater is meant to evoke memories of the Elan.

Anyone who remembers Diana Rigg as Emma Peel in the television show, *The Avengers*, remembers the little Elan with affection. Here is the Elan again. It should be as British as roast beef, but comes neatly packaged by the

When MG closed its gates at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, it was virtually the death of the affordable British sports car. Lotus had moved up into the "supercar" league and there were no models to take the place of cars like the MG Midget and MGB as well as the Elan, which had set the style for a generation of two-seaters.

A replacement for the Elan was discussed as long ago as 1976, but Lotus, along with much of the British car industry, was suffering from cash problems at the time.

Mazda's tribute to the past

Japanese. Hirai's affection for the past did not prevent him adding modern dynamics of roadholding and performance.

The curves are almost the same as the old Elan, even the rasping exhaust note — which took Mazda's engineers months to perfect — evokes memories of everything a sports car should be.

Under the bonnet, though, is a version of the punchy 16-valve, 1.6-litre engine which goes into the

company's 323 range, delivering about 115 brake horsepower. Performance is nowhere near as great as the new Lotus Elan, but this car does not need to be a tarmac burner.

However, the MX-5 looks like a winner whatever the performance, and is sure to attract a dedicated following.

MAZDA MX-5 Price: £14,000 expected. Engine: normally aspirated, 16-valve, 1.6-litre straight four-cylinder delivering 115 hp through five-speed manual gearbox and drive through rear wheels.

Performance (still to be confirmed): 0 to 60 mph in less than 9 secs. Top speed 120 mph. Fuel consumption about 30 mpg on town driving. Insurance group: probably 7.

It took 14 years for Mike Kimberley to revive the Lotus Elan... but the wait was worth it, for the Elan sets new standards in sports car design and engineering.

The general Lotus managing director was bawling Colin Chapman, the company founder, to reintroduce an entry-level model as long ago as 1976, but Lotus then could not afford the cash to compete with the Japanese.

The takeover by GM, however, did provide the £25 million that Kimberley needed to bring back the Elan. He responded by tearing up all the hopeful designs and tentative drawings which had been made over the years at the firm and starting again.

The result is a car bristling with innovation, from its composite glass-fibre body to its lightweight,

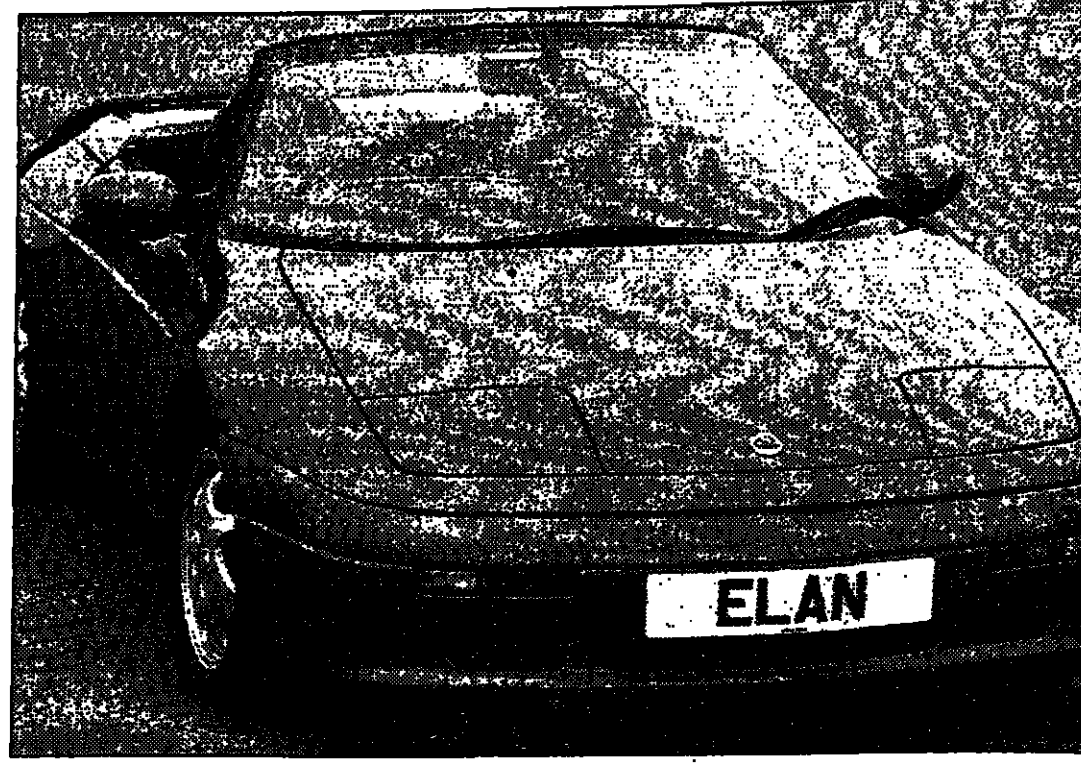
the market by storm — has plucked up the courage to take the famous MG badge off its saloons and design a new open-top car for the mid-1990s.

Doubts about whether there are buyers for these out-and-out "fun" cars have been removed.

According to Kimberley, a generation of Dinkies — double income no kids — raised on GTI saloons is spawning large numbers ready to move on to "top-down" motoring, using the car as their first vehicle. A third of orders for

the Elan are also from women, underlining the role of the two-seater as an image vehicle for career women.

But for both Lotus and Rover, the biggest incentive is exports. At least 60 per cent of the eventual 2,500 Elans built annually at Hethel will go abroad. Even in the United States, where the market for new vehicles has been declining for months, there seems no lack of enthusiasm for genuine sports cars. There are still an estimated 300,000 MGs on the



The Lotus Elan: a £35 million budget has resulted in a car bristling with innovation, a world-class performer

sive SE, there is a non-turbo version coming in at £17,850. Lotus says that will put the car into a band slightly above the MX-5, offering a more impressive performance package.

The package is, undoubtedly, an appealing one, providing Lotus with a standing car which will capture the imagination of a rising generation of sports car enthusiasts.

LOTUS ELAN SE Price: £19,850.

Engine: 16-valve, straight four-cylinder 1.6-litre, turbo-charged for 165 brake horsepower through five-speed gearbox with drive through front wheels. Performance: 0 to 60 mph in 6.7 seconds. Top speed 137 mph. Fuel consumption 26.2 mpg around town. Insurance group: 6.

In addition to the more expen-

ing roadholding ability. Performance is electric in the top-of-the-range turbo-charged SE version with a 0 to 60 mph time of 7.6 seconds.

Surprisingly in a car of this type, fuel consumption is relatively frugal with 26.2 mpg available around town in the turbo car, 42.2 mpg if an Elan driver can restrict him or herself to a constant 56 mph.

roads of America — opening up huge market prospects for Rover. The MX-5, badged as the Miata, has proven that demand exists in the United States, with orders outstripping available cars and forcing production to be raised in Japan.

When the MX-5 lands here next month, it completes a duo of remarkable cars which will make the enthusiasts' mouths water... and put a grin on the face of many other motorists restricted to the duller ranks of lookalike saloons.

The Elan — worth the wait

high-revving engine and astonishing roadholding ability. Performance is electric in the top-of-the-range turbo-charged SE version with a 0 to 60 mph time of 7.6 seconds.

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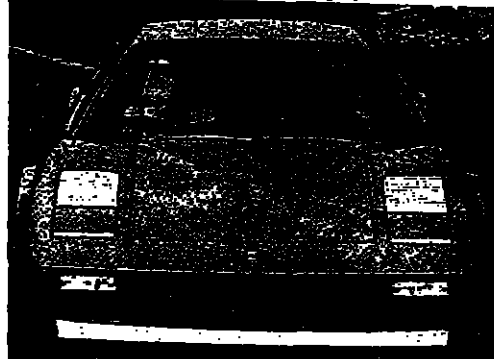
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Speed to turn a motorist Green

The French have stolen a lead in the super-mini market with the Citroën AX which has excellent performers throughout the range — from the one-litre AX10E to a 1.4-litre diesel offering fuel economy of 54.3 mpg around town.

But Citroën may not have things its own way for long, with Rover ready to launch its new Metro, and Ford's new Fiesta range taking over where the old model left off — at the top of the sales charts.

How does the Citroën AX GT measure up to its current opposition, the old Metro, being sold off in the run-up to the new

version, and the more high-powered Fiesta?

CITROËN AX GT
Price: \$7,894.
Engine: 1360cc with twin choke carburetor to offer 85 brake horsepower. Five-speed manual gearbox and front-wheel drive. Performance: 0 to 60mph in 8.8 secs. Top speed 112mph. Fuel consumption 37.2 mpg on town driving.
Insurance group: 4.
Cost per mile: 28.6p.

MG METRO
Price: \$8,070.
Engine: 1275cc for 73 bhp through

four-speed manual gearbox and front-wheel drive.
Performance: 0 to 60mph in 10.9 secs. Top speed 103mph. Fuel consumption 35.1mpg in town.
Insurance group: 3.
Cost per mile: 29.3p.

FORD FIESTA XR2i
Price: £10,445.
Engine: fuel-injected 1.6-litre for 110bhp through five-speed gearbox and front-wheel drive.
Performance: 0 to 60mph in nine secs. Top speed 119mph. Fuel consumption 28.5mpg in town.
Insurance group: 5.
Cost per mile: 31.6p.



Read says: "There is much that can be done to improve skills and awareness. We are looking for sponsors now to provide pump-priming funds, but we believe the time is right for this scheme."

four-speed manual gearbox and front-wheel drive.
Performance: 0 to 60mph in 10.9 secs. Top speed 103mph. Fuel consumption 35.1mpg in town.
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FOOTBALL: PRETENDERS TO ARSENAL'S THRONE MUST STILL BEWARE OF THE BANANA SKIN IN THEIR PATH

Villa leading the way in style

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Aston Villa, the new leaders of the first division, are walking towards a banana skin. The warning is offered by Tony Less, an authority on the game's manager, Graham Taylor says that there is no better side for bringing you down to earth than Wimbledon, the visitors tomorrow afternoon.

"They make you scrap for everything," Taylor said — and he should know. He lifted Watford up the League by employing similarly unsophisticated tactics to unsettle opponents. Villa could do the same last season. Beaten in both first division fixtures, they were also knocked out of the FA Cup at home by Wimbledon.

But Villa then were shuffling nervously along the edge of relegation. Now, carrying

Fleck aims at return to Scotland

Robert Fleck, whose scoring form for Norwich this season has taken him into contention for a place in the Scotland World Cup squad for Italy, last night surprised the East Anglian club by insisting he wants to leave as soon as possible.

Fleck, aged 24, a Glasgow Rangers forward who would command a transfer fee of more than £1 million, said: "I want to return to the Scottish premier league."

"I've been in England for two years and as far as I'm concerned that's enough. I miss Scotland and I want to go back."

"Although I have two years of my contract to run I feel it is inevitable that I will leave before it ends. I don't want to get home and the sooner better."

"If the chance arose to move tomorrow I would go, even with the World Cup just around the corner."

Brian Talbot, the West Norwich Albion manager, has announced that he will never again start a first-team match after being dissatisfied with his performance in his side's 1-0 defeat by Leicester at the Hawthorns on Wednesday.

Talbot, aged 36, admitted himself as a substitute for the second division match but had to play the whole game because Kevin Bartlett went down with flu.

It was the first time Talbot, former England midfielder, had run out at the club since undergoing a cartilage operation before Christmas.

Talbot said: "The pace at the start of a game is too hectic and it is too quick for me."

"My shape has gone and so far as I am concerned it is a waste of time playing."

SYDNEY: Frank Arok said yesterday he would not reappoint to coach the Australian national team (AP reports).

unshakable belief, they are striving positively towards the title. As Terry Venables said after his Tottenham Hotspur side had lost 2-0 on Wednesday night: "Confidence comes with consistency, and there is no reason why they cannot go on from here."

It is no coincidence that Villa closely resemble the formation and, in more than a few positions, the individuals of the champions, McGrath, Mountfield and Nielsen, for instance, form as solid a shield as Adams, Bould and O'Leary, the three central defenders who protected Arsenal during the closing stages last season.

Villa's full backs, Gage and Price, are free to join the creative department and, just as Dixon and Winterburn were allowed regularly to prompt Rocastle and Marwood, they support Daley and Ormondroyd, the



comically contrasting figures who provide speed on one flank and height on the other.

As young Thomas gained international recognition for his industrious contribution in midfield, so the youthful Platt has become the principal candidate for Bryan Robson's place in England's line-up next month. As Richardson resurrected his career at the age of 27, so the 31-year-old Cowans has discovered a new lease at Villa Park.

The achievements of Smith, the first division's most prolific scorer who finished with 23 goals, are being matched by Olney (9). But, like Arsenal, defensive security is the foundation of their success. No one has conceded fewer goals in the first division.

Taylor did not immediately find the right combination. After going down 3-1 at home to Queen's Park Rangers on September 23, which remains Villa's heaviest defeat, they were 17th. Significantly, Cowans was recalled, and they have since collected 47 points out of a possible total of 54.

"We are on top on merit," Taylor said. "It cannot be a fluke, although, if I was a journalist, I would still describe us as the pretenders to Liverpool's throne. They have been through it all before, but we have a frame-

work, everybody knows what is expected of them and they do their jobs."

The victory over Tottenham was their seventh in a row and McGrath, a member of the Manchester United side which opened with 10 successive wins four seasons ago, rates Villa as the superior unit.

There was so much good football and flair at Old Trafford, but this is the best team I've been in," he said.

"We are good to watch, we are not just scraping results and the confidence is sky high. Daley is scaring the living daylights out of defenders, Cowans is splitting defences with his passes and we have developed a good understanding at the back. We all believe in the way we are playing."

That belief, a formidable asset, should enable them to avoid stumbling in the banana

skin game. They promise to stretch their lead to five points and allow Taylor, who has stood on the summit only momentarily with Watford in 1982, more time to enjoy the view.

Whether Villa can sustain their position depends not so much on the strength of their nerve (their collective experience suggests that it will hold) but on injuries. Should the series of 11 all be available for the remaining 13 matches, the club captain could claim a unique distinction.

Gray, who was sent off in October and injured in December, is still waiting in the wings. "The way things are going, I could be the first captain to lead a team to the championship, and possibly a League and Cup double, from the substitutes' bench," he said.



Four famous forwards: legendary players to strike fear in any defence — (left to right) Stanley Matthews, Raich Carter, Tommy Lawton and Tom Finney

The greats remember their golden days

By Peter Ball

Football is at last discovering its past. Two weeks ago, following the publication of the biography, Sir Stanley Matthews' 75th birthday brought a glittering array of names to pay tribute to one of the game's greatest players, the sort of gathering which cricket does so well and football has rarely done at all.

Yesterday, a similar group gathered at a lunch at Old Trafford, to launch a tribute to the great players of earlier eras, a limited edition set of hand-coloured portraits, figures, of which there are 33 in all.

As well as Matthews, Tommy Lawton, Tom Finney, Stanley Matthews, Jimmy Carey, a frail Tommy Lawton, now walk-

ing on two sticks after suffering a broken hip, Joe Mercer, and more modern greats, John Charles, Gordon Banks, Cliff Jones, and Danny Blanchflower were there to recall the pomp and glory of their youth. "It's great to see all the faces I used to go past," Raich Carter said, with a typical sharp chuckle, his searic wit undiminished with years.

There was, inevitably, much reminiscing about the "good old days". "The game today? Rubbish. I'd sooner watch rugby," said Jones. "There's a game," Carter said, "but it's not the same as the game of the past."

"Copping" he was hard. People talk about Stan and Tom, and it's right, they were great players, but from a team point of view, I'm not sure I'd pick them before Sammy Crooks, at Derby, or Johnny Mason. They were great players, too."

And his listeners nodded agreement. But there were dissenters, among them some of the most eminent, including Tom Finney, who, of the players of his era, was probably the one who would have adapted most readily to the greater demands of today's game.

"It is a different game today, and in some ways not such a good one," the Preston president said. "It's less of a game today, the money is much greater, the

result is much more important. In my day, if you finished halfway in the first division, you'd have a good season. Now, you're a failure."

"So it is more defensive, and the demands on the forwards are much greater. In my day, if I came back into the other half, Bill Shankly'd say: 'Get back to your own half, I'll take care of things for you.' If a forward loses it, he has to double back and fill in as never."

"But it is nonsense to say there aren't any good players now. That's just old players living in the past."

Finney, understandably, reflects Liverpool as a side to stand comparison with any of the great

teams of the past. He described their 5-0 defeat of Nottingham Forest two years ago as the greatest performance he had ever seen from an English club side, and he insisted yesterday that he saw no reason to change that view. Barnes, Beardsley and Hansen — "a great player" — receiving his standing ovation.

The mention of Barnes even received an acknowledgement from Carter, and when Beardsley followed, his guard dropped completely. "Peter Beardsley? Now there's a player. He's got a feel, a touch, he's a footballer. How can anyone leave him out of a side, ever?" The game's not what it was. But then, it never was.

BOWLS

Richards supports no-run criticism

By David Rhys Jones

With 13 of the 16 first-round matches played in the Embury championship at the Preston Guildhall, competitors and officials panted to take stock as the pairs event got under way yesterday.

Five Englishmen are through to the last 16, along with two from Scotland and Wales, while the overseas challenge is stronger than ever, with Ian Schuchbach, Rowan Bransley, Mark McMahon and Cecil Bransley already through, and Peter Seal and Jim Yates, of Australia, threatening to join them today.

Tony Allcock, who scraped through against Mike Kent, of Wales, was not amused at being kept from his bed until quarter to one yesterday morning while he was hoping to be released from nocturnal detention in future rounds.

Allcock has no arguments with the new rule restricting players' movements, because he had always made a habit of remaining at the club from where he bombarded officials with verbal enquiries, but Wynne Richards, a natural

"runner", joined the growing band of critics. After beating Clifford Craig, of Ireland, in straight sets, Richards, who is 39, said, "After nearly 30 years of running after my bowls, I'm finding it very difficult — and unnatural — to stop myself. The rule forces us to bowl blind, and curbs self-expression into the bargain."

In the first of the pairs matches, a confusing all-Irish affair, Jim Baker was opposed by Stan Espley, his world championship team mate, and partnered by Michael Dunlop, whose brother, Barry, led for Espley. Baker and Dunlop, M, won in straight sets.

Cathy Smith and Andy Thompson, two sets up, lost the third set of their opening match against Nick Donaldson, of Glamorgan, and Clive Major, of New Zealand, but responded emphatically, winning the fourth set, 7-0.

Mullally deal

Alan Mullally, aged 20, the Western Australia fast bowler, has agreed a two-year contract with Leicestershire.

SWIMMING

Dekker is left with lone battle

By Craig Lord

Adrian Moorhouse, the world record holder and Olympic breaststroke champion from Leeds has withdrawn from a race which could have earned him £10,000.

On the eve of the Leicester meeting, which doubles as the final World Cup contest and final British Milk in Action Grand Prix event of the season, Moorhouse has decided that a world best time in the 100 metres breaststroke, which would win him the prize, is beyond his compass after a three-week holiday in New Zealand, following the Commonwealth Games.

His withdrawal leaves Ron Dekker, of the Netherlands, one of only three men to break the one minute barrier in the event — facing a lonely battle against the clock. The world's best of 59.30sec was set by Dimitri Volkov of the Soviet Union, two weeks ago in Bonn.

Moorhouse, who was the first to go under the minute in a short course pool and whose world record in a 50-metre pool stands at 1:01.49, said: "I don't think it's realistic to go ahead with this swim. I'm not in shape."

SQUASH RACKETS

By Colin McQuillan

Promotional priorities at the Leekes Welsh Classic tournament in Cardiff may have contributed to yesterday's disappointing demise of Tristan Nancarrow, an Australian who is both the most infuriatingly misbehaved player on the circuit and the most entertaining. He was the first time since they were juniors together at the Australian Institute of Squash.

"It was particularly hard on Tristan because of the long five-setter with Rodney," Edwards said. "But I did warn the players in advance that we would juggle them about to suit BBC Wales who are giving us daily coverage here."

"They all agreed, Jahangir played later than Tristan on

Wednesday and followed him on yesterday without complaint. Tristan moaned a bit but I checked the rules of the International Squash Players Association and told him they demand only that a player is not scheduled for more than one game each day."

Technically, Edwards infringed this ruling anyway, since Jahangir defeated Paul Gregory, of England, 15-12, 15-7, 15-7 in a 54-minute first round match that ended at 12.45am yesterday and was back to serve Philip Whitlock similarly 15-3, 15-12, 15-6 in 41 minutes at 3pm.

RESULTS: Second round: Jahangir Khan (Pak) 15-12, 15-7, 15-12, 15-6; M Zaidi (Pak) 15-3, 15-12, 15-6; M Zaidi (Pak) 15-3, 15-12, 15-6.

YACHTING

Lamazou ponders problem

After 85 days alone at sea, Titiou Lamazou, still leading the Globe Challenge single-handed non-stop round the world race, is faced with a dilemma. Four hundred miles to the east, but only 113 miles behind, is Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, his main threat for the past three weeks (Malcolm McKean writes).

One hundred miles to the west, but no less than 130 miles behind, is Loick Peyron. Ahead lie the unpredictable tropics, and Lamazou must make up his mind which of his rivals to cover. Lamazou appears to have opted to cover Peyron, and has moved more to the westward, where Peyron has been finding strong winds off

the South American coast. Yesterday, Lamazou was averaging 7.6 knots to Peyron's nine, with VDH bogged down in the South Atlantic high and making just over five knots. The race has just crossed the tropic of Capricorn, Alain Gautier, meanwhile, became the sixth competitor to round Cape Horn.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BATTERSEA PARK, London: College of Sport (Collegiate) 1st: 100m, 11.2; 200m, 24.5; 400m, 1:00.0; 800m, 2:15.0; 1600m, 5:00.0; 3200m, 10:00.0; 6400m, 20:00.0; 12800m, 40:00.0; 25600m, 80:00.0; 51200m, 160:00.0; 102400m, 320:00.0; 204800m, 640:00.0; 409600m, 1280:00.0; 819200m, 2560:00.0; 1638400m, 5120:00.0; 3276800m, 10240:00.0; 6553600m, 20480:00.0; 13107200m, 40960:00.0; 26214400m, 81920:00.0; 52428800m, 163840:00.0; 104857600m, 327680:00.0; 209715200m, 655360:00.0; 419430400m, 1310720:00.0; 838860800m, 2621440:00.0; 1677721600m, 5242880:00.0; 3355443200m, 10485760:00.0; 6710886400m, 20971520:00.0; 13421772800m, 41943040:00.0; 26843545600m, 83886080:00.0; 53687091200m, 167772160:00.0; 107374182400m, 335544320:00.0; 214748364800m, 671088640:00.0; 429496729600m, 1342177280:00.0; 858993459200m, 2684354560:00.0; 1717986918400m, 5368709120:00.0; 3435973836800m, 10737418240:00.0; 6871947673600m, 21474836480:00.0; 13743895347200m, 42949672960:00.0; 27487790694400m, 85899345920:00.0; 54975581388800m, 171798691840:00.0; 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TOMORROW'S
SPORT

The best at the Test
Alan Lee and David Gower examine
England's hopes against the West Indies

Inside the power game
Denis Howell on the politics and the
people in his years as Minister for Sport

Television picks
75 live matches
for viewer battle

By Louise Taylor

Football yesterday found itself in the front-line of the battle between the television companies. With British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) announcing that it intended to broadcast 12 matches from the Italian League live on Sunday afternoons next season, viewers equipped with the necessary dishes will be able to watch at least 75 live games in the nine months from August without needing to move from their armchairs.

British audiences will barely be able to draw breath after the saturation coverage of this summer's World Cup in Italy, scheduled to be shown by BBC and ITV and Eurosport, before their living rooms are filled with action beamed from Tannadice, Old Trafford, Turin, among many others.

The BBC, which has a £30 million joint contract with BSB signed in November 1988, will transmit five live FA Cup-ties on Sunday afternoons, plus the final, and international matches involving England during their build-up towards the 1992 European Championship in Sweden.

ITV weighs in with a maximum of 17 English Barclays League fixtures and four League Cup matches, also on Sunday afternoons. BSB, which begins broadcasting on April 29, has captured the Scottish market with at least 20 live matches. It will screen four live Skol Cup matches on Wednesday evenings, in addition to four live Tennent Scottish Cup-ties, four live replays, and six

B & Q Scottish League matches, plus at least two international matches from Hampden Park at times to be arranged.

In England BSB will break with tradition by transmitting five FA Cup games live on Saturday nights, one from each round from the third to the semi-finals. In addition, it will screen a midweek replay in each round.

Sky Television plans to show six live matches: the final and both legs of the Zenith Data Systems Cup area semi-finals, and the final of the Leyland DAF Cup. Eurosport, which transmits on a Sky channel, will broadcast an unspecified number of tape-delay full-length matches from Europe.

However, Peter Coppock, the ITV Sport spokesman, said his company did not regard the initiative from the satellite companies as potentially damaging to ITV's regular Sunday audience of seven million. "We are more than happy with what we have got, I think there is a lot more interest in the League than most other things, certainly more so than Italian football."

A BBC spokesman said that his organization was "very happy" with the choice of scheduling by BSB — "with whom we have a very amicable partnership". David Bloomfield, a Football Association spokesman, said that the FA would be "keeping the situation under constant review". Bloomfield said that if the television scheduling was seen to be "detrimental", to foot-

ball in England the FA would "not hesitate to address BSB and the BBC on the subject". He added: "We do not think that the English and Italian matches on Sunday afternoons will overlap in a manner which will detract from the League fixtures." It is not expected that BSB will show live matches from Italy on the same afternoon as other domestic live screenings.

Considering it is benefiting from an £18 million contract to show live Cup matches, the FA is not really in a position to be overly critical. Yet BSB's plans for live Saturday night football are likely to upset the police. Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers sub-committee on hooliganism, said yesterday: "I would foresee difficulties as police resources are already stretched on Saturday evenings, which is one of the busiest periods of the week for police officers."

From the spectator's viewpoint, public transport on Saturday nights can be erratic, and attending a match could, in any case, clash with more traditional Saturday night activities.

BSB also announced yesterday that its chief commentators would be Martin Tyler, who has been working for ITV, and Andy Gray, the former Aston Villa and Scotland player. In addition, Ray Wilkins and Trevor Francis — England internationals who have played in Italy — would analyse the Italian League matches.

Villa radiate confidence

By Dennis Shaw

Graham Taylor, the manager of Aston Villa, is confident that his team can resist the challenge of Liverpool and maintain its position at the top of the first division until the end of the season.

Taylor, whose team reached the top by beating Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Wednesday evening, is confident that it will not wilt under the pressure.

Aston Villa, who are also in the FA Cup quarter-finals, are seeking to re-establish themselves as one of the most powerful clubs in Europe. They have overtaken Liverpool in the League, with a match in hand, while accumulating a £700,000 surplus

on transfers and attracting commercial income in addition to record gate receipts. Taylor said: "We're not there yet, but we're on our way. Financially, we can now afford to team strengthen and also improve facilities in accordance with the Taylor report."

"We are not saying 'Isn't it great, we're on top of the League'. It is not short-term glory we're looking for, not one trophy nor even two trophies. Our aim has always been long-term stability."

Taylor takes special pride in the manner of his team reaching the No. 1 position. "We couldn't have got there in a better way," he said. "It's very

rare that you control a whole game especially away in the first division. Neutrals will now say: 'This team knows what it's doing. They are on top on merit.'"

"We have been forced-fed on Liverpool success for so many years. True, nobody does know what the final phase of the season will bring except that Liverpool definitely can cope with the pressures."

Can Villa? "My answer is no. We are not on top by accident. When you consider we are top of the table yet Liverpool themselves haven't lost for something like 15 games it is a measure of our success."

Breland, the elegant tourist

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Making his point: Breland, the WBA welterweight champion, in London yesterday

By Brian Stiles

Mark Breland, the elegant world boxing tourist, feels his 11-day stop over in London is providing him with just a lucrative tour of the sights, but the main sight he has in view is Lloyd Honeyghan, the Londoner who has threatened to rob him of his World Boxing Association welterweight title.

Breland, immaculately turned out in a pinstriped suit, looked anything but a mugger — as he claimed he will be the one doing the mugging at Wembley Arena a week tomorrow. Breland, an articulate and intelligent ambassador for his sport, yesterday sat in the appropriately named The White House, a London Hotel and skilfully handled the probing attention of the British boxing press.

He kept his most telling retort until the end. "If Honeyghan goes the distance he will look terrible after the fight. He will be much better off letting me knock him out," he said.

Breland will receive almost £250,000 for his labours in the richest non-heavyweight bout staged in Britain and he will be able to cross off another foreign country from his round-the-world boxing tour list.

He discovered last year that travel broadens the mind and increases his bank account. After winning the vacant title in Las Vegas in February he found richer pickings outside the United States defending the title in Switzerland, Tokyo.

"I would prefer to fight in Atlantic City and then get in the car and drive straight home but I will travel where the money is and it's here in London this time," Breland said.

In his early days he was saddened with the prediction that he would be better than

Sugar Ray Robinson. It was a milestone that helped bring about his defeat in the first defence of the WBA title which he won by beating Harold Volbrecht, of South Africa, in February 1987.

Marlon Starling knocked him out in the eleventh round. He fought Starling eight months later and secured a draw which helped to partly restore his image but did little to restore his drawing power in the United States.

Since capturing the vacant title again — with a first-round knockout of Seung Soon Lee — last February, Breland has proved he has matmured, defending his title in style on three occasions.

His maturity showed yesterday as he diplomatically deflected questions about Honeyghan's animosity towards him for having allegedly supported apartheid by boxing a South African.

Only ripples at
Cape but rings
well deserved

Lawrie Smith

Cape Horn The gods have smiled sweetly on us at last. And what place better than Cape Horn? The infamous Cape, which divides the grey-green waters of the Pacific from the brown Atlantic, is the pinnacle that has driven every competitor in the race to endure frostbite, continuous soakings, "card-board" food and the cramped, smelly quarters of a racing yacht since September.

This was my first rounding, and the only point in the race that filled me with any dread. The pilot books report that the weather is almost always bad, blowing a full gale most days, and storms the rest that often build to hurricane force.

Worse, the fast flowing currents and steep shelving bottom help create ferocious 40ft to 60ft seas that continue to run even on the few occasions when the winds recede. Then, headway is marred by the sickening pitching and rolling that knocks what wind there is out of the sails.

There are many examples of ships that have drifted helplessly on the jagged rocks that line this mountainous "land of fire" but the story told to me by Robin Knox-Johnston that still sends most shudders down my spine is that of the Ellenbrook, a fully rigged ship, left becalmed off here in 1855. She was caught between two swells, one from the south, the other from the west, and capsized in the trough. The only reassuring aspect to Robin's tale is that her captain was picked up three days later, still clinging to the upturned hull.

Remarkably, when Rothmans rounded at 16.00 GMT on Wednesday, we faced nothing more than 20ft ripples. As the mighty Horn dove into sight, the rain clouds parted and after hoist-

The skipper of Rothmans continues his diary of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

ing a spinnaker, we sped round at 13 knots, one mile ahead of Charles Jourdan.

For seven in our crew who have been here at least once already, it is now just another mark in a course, and with Alain Gabbey's crew so close, my first concern too, was to win this particular match-race. Membership of the Cape Horners Club could wait.

By tradition, those who shoot the Horn under sail, wear a gold ring in their left lobe. It is not something that appeals to me but Paul Standbridge, now on his third rounding, wears his with pride. Kym Morton, my Australian No. 2 on board, counts the same number, but says the only reason he does not wear one is because his hair is not long enough to hide it.

Having turned our backs on the Southern Ocean and heading north once more, there is a strong sense of an end to a long and arduous voyage. The voyage from Auckland has been a big disappointment, but the final 1,000-mile race to Punta del Este is far from over.

Light weather has helped concertina the fleet, and though this has helped Merit to close within 21 miles of Rothmans, we too stand a chance once more of picking off the two New Zealand ketches if the wind gods continue to bless our path over the weekend.

Close competition
after Cape Horn

By Barry Pickthall

Competition within the Whitbread Round the World Race heightened yesterday, as the leading yachts headed north from Cape Horn.

Fisher & Paykel, Grant Dalton's ketch, from New Zealand, which has played the role of bridesmaid to Peter Blake's big red ketch, Steingard 2, for so much of this voyage, got back on level terms, leaving Rothmans, of Great Britain, the French yacht, Charles Jourdan, and Ladde Ingval's challenger, UBF, from Finland, fighting it out for third place, 70 miles astern.

The Argos satellites did not pick up positions for Charles Jourdan or UBF Finland on their mid-day pass yesterday, but by interpolating their average speed since the previous pass, it is apparent that 15 miles was all that divided Rothmans from her rivals.

Blake, who reported yesterday that four miles was all that divided his ketch from Fisher & Paykel when they rounded The Horn, five hours ahead of Rothmans, on Wednesday, got out of his bunk at dawn yesterday, to find Dalton and his crew challenging just two miles astern.

"This leg, and the race, is far from over, but it is nice to say goodbye to the Southern Ocean at last," he said.

Earlier, Blake and his crew upheld the last wishes of an old Cape Horner by spreading the ashes of Garth Neill, a New Zealand sailor, who first rounded the Cape as an apprentice, then aged 17, aboard a brigantine in 1924. The master mariner died at his home, in Hawkes Bay, earlier this year, aged 82.

"We followed the simple ceremony laid down in the medical handbook. It was quite moving," Blake said, after making his fourth rounding of the Horn.

Further back in the fleet, Tracy Edwards, skipper of the British division three entry, Maiden, finally broke through the appalling atmospherics that have plagued radio transmissions with the fleet this week, to report that Michele Paret, her injured watch leader, was on the mend.

"Michele is a lot better, though she has badly pulled muscles in her back. Claire (Maiden's doctor) thinks there is no damage to her spine, but will arrange for an X-ray on arrival in Uruguay as a check," Edwards said.

At the time of Edwards report, Maiden was 850 miles from the Horn, running downwind, before a 30 knot sou-wester, 155 miles behind their division leader, Patrick Tabarly's L'Esprit de Liberte.

Leading positions

(compiled at 1530 GMT yesterday with complete positions for the Whitbread Round the World Race divisions equal 1. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ) and Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,132. 3. Rothmans (J. Smith, GB), 1,131. 4. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,128. 5. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,100. 6. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,097. 7. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,042. 8. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,038. 9. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,037. 10. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,036. 11. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 1,035. 12. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,034. 13. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,033. 14. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,032. 15. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,031. 16. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,030. 17. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 1,029. 18. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,028. 19. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,027. 20. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,026. 21. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,025. 22. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,024. 23. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 1,023. 24. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,022. 25. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,021. 26. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,020. 27. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,019. 28. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,018. 29. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 1,017. 30. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,016. 31. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,015. 32. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,014. 33. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,013. 34. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,012. 35. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 1,011. 36. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,010. 37. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,009. 38. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,008. 39. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,007. 40. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,006. 41. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 1,005. 42. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,004. 43. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 1,003. 44. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 1,002. 45. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 1,001. 46. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 1,000. 47. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 999. 48. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 998. 49. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 997. 50. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 996. 51. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 995. 52. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 994. 53. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 993. 54. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 992. 55. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 991. 56. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 990. 57. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 989. 58. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 988. 59. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 987. 60. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 986. 61. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 985. 62. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 984. 63. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 983. 64. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 982. 65. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 981. 66. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 980. 67. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 979. 68. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 978. 69. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 977. 70. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 976. 71. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 975. 72. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 974. 73. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 973. 74. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 972. 75. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 971. 76. 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Dalton, NZ), 944. 103. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 943. 104. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 942. 105. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 941. 106. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 940. 107. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 939. 108. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 938. 109. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 937. 110. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 936. 111. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 935. 112. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 934. 113. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 933. 114. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 932. 115. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 931. 116. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 930. 117. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 929. 118. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 928. 119. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 927. 120. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 926. 121. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 925. 122. Charles Jourdan (A. Gabbey, FR), 924. 123. UBF (J. Ingval, FI), 923. 124. Grant Dalton (G. Dalton, NZ), 922. 125. Steingard 2 (P. Blake, NZ), 921. 126. Fisher & Paykel (G. Dalton, NZ), 920. 127. Maiden (T. Edwards, GB), 919. 128. Charles Jourdan (A. 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